

Palestinian police entry delayed

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — A total of 1,750 Palestinian police were set to arrive in the Gaza Strip and Jericho next week, several days later than previously reported, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official announced Wednesday. About 1,000 would come to the Gaza Strip from Egypt and another 750 to Brigadier-General Ghazi Jibawi told a press conference. "We are here to take over from the Israeli authorities," he said. "Our policemen will arrive with their uniforms, with light weapons and pistols ready to protect our people and bring security to our nation," he said. He did not explain what was causing the delay. However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin did not hesitate to accuse the Palestinians of not being prepared to take over. "They're not ready to take things over," he said after signing the self-rule deal with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. "We could finish our withdrawal in 10 days, the problem is that Yasser Arafat has asked for four weeks."

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Israel, PLO sign autonomy accord



(Left to right) Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian

President Hosni Mubarak pressure PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as he refuses to sign a chapter of the Gaza-Jericho autonomy deal in Cairo, Wednesday (AFP photo)

which provides for limited Palestinian autonomy and a partial Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. It said Syria, which like Lebanon and Jordan is also engaged in peace

talks with Israel, believes "such separate and partial solutions would put obstacles in the way of a just and comprehensive peace."

PLO factions opposed to

dealings with Israel joined with Islamic groups in condemning the agreement, which they said was deeply unpopular among

(Continued on page 2)

Live negotiations, Israel-PLO style

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat eventually signed a map attached to the historic Palestinian self-rule agreement with Israel after assurances from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said.

Mr. Arafat had thrown the signing ceremony into confusion by refusing to sign the map. Mr. Arafat wrote notes on the document when he signed.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin got an aide to read the Arabic notes Mr. Arafat had added before he too signed.

"It is a problem of the map. Mr. Arafat asked for assurances for the map because he did not find them and Mr. Christopher promised to give him assurances," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

In order to meet the signing deadline, the two sides

had agreed in late-night talks to disagree on differences such as the size of the Jericho area to be given over to Palestinians.

Dr. Shaath explained that the final text was not decided until just before the ceremony started and Mr. Arafat had not had time to see it.

He demanded and obtained an assurance, underwritten by the United States, Russia and Egypt, that Israel would provide a letter saying the size of Jericho was still negotiable.

"In fact none of us had a chance to see the whole package together. I think there was some miscommunication. He (Arafat) wanted to make sure that the letter was signed," Dr. Shaath said.

One PLO official said Mr. Arafat did not want a repetition of what happened in Cairo in February. On that

(Continued on page 5)

Subdued celebration in occupied territories

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

JERICHO — As Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the self-rule agreement on Wednesday, Palestinian youths raised the Palestinian flag on the Israeli police centre still occupied by Israeli soldiers.

Celebrations in this palm oasis and banana plantation were subdued. The dusty and desolate streets of Jericho city centre were filled with people discussing the peace process. Many crowded in front of television sets in shops or sat idly, drinking tea and listening to radios.

"PLO, Israel no," shouted tens of children waving Palestinian flags in front of the police centre. People crowded in front of the centre, some children dared for the first time to climb its iron gates to hoist the

Palestinian flags on the entrance while Israeli soldiers caged inside the building and on its rooftop, watched.

Jericho residents protested the presence of soldiers on the signing day. Youths threw stones at soldiers inside the police centre in an expression of impatience to see them leave. Soldiers fired tear-gas to disperse the crowd.

"We went to feel that we have driven soldiers out and that they withdrew out of here peacefully," said one youth stoning an army patrol. Soldiers, on foot and in army patrols, were all over Jericho.

Abu Maher, an elderly shopkeeper, said despite the signing, "we will not believe there will be changes until we see it on the ground."

Other shopkeepers said they had seen more soldiers in Jericho since the September accord than they have seen

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan: Accord is Palestinian affair

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Information Saad Al Tal said Wednesday Jordan considers the self-rule accord signed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in Cairo is an "independent Palestinian affair," adding that Jordan supports the Palestinian people with all its means.

Dr. Tal expressed hope the accord will be a major step in the Palestinian struggle towards building the Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil. Responding to a question on the accord, Dr. Tal said Jordan "recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in accordance with the decision of the Rabat Arab summit in 1974."

Dr. Tal said, "The uniqueness of Jordanian-Palestinian relations requires continuous coordination between the two parties."

committee assigned with drafting a statement on the issue finished its work. The House did not adopt the statement of the self-rule accord because that made it "a witness to the sale of Palestine."

"We condemn the agreement and we condemn those who attended the signing ceremony," IAF spokesman Hamza Mansour told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Mansour expressed the IAF's disappointment with the reported change in the government's position regarding attending the signing ceremony, saying "we were saddened by the change."

But Deputy Abdul Karim Al Kabriti said: "No one can outbid the Jordanian position (on the Palestinian issue) which was manifest in His

Times.

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(Continued on page 5)

House session breaks up after argument over Cairo agreement

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament cut short a regular session at the request of 31 deputies who demanded the House condemn and protest the "humiliation" of the self-rule deal signed in Cairo between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It is not acceptable that the House discuss the draft sales tax law "on this black day, the day of the sale of Palestine," said the deputies in a signed statement, demanding that the House hold a special meeting to discuss the agreement and condemn the "Cairo agreement of humiliation."

The statement also said Jordan, which "did not give up Arab rights despite the pressures and temptations, is not responsible for the concessions

(in the Cairo) agreement."

The IAF deputies, however, criticised the government for attending the signing ceremony of the self-rule accord because that made it "a witness to the sale of Palestine."

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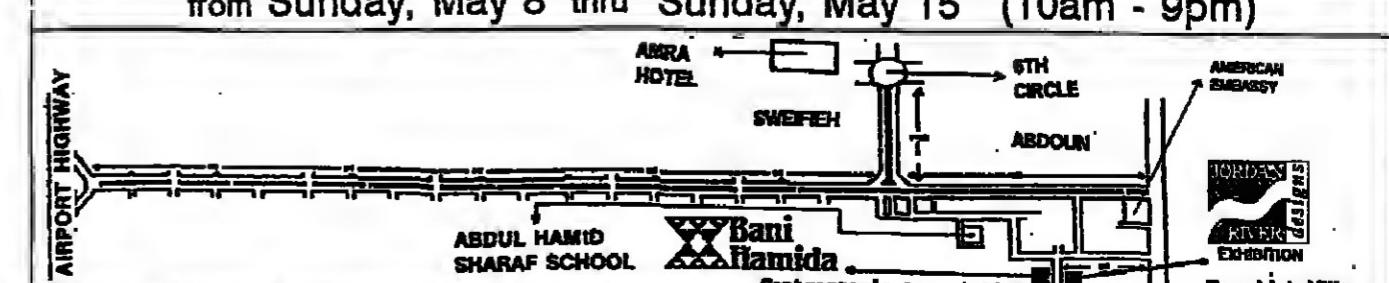
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Sedki arrives, stresses need for joint action



Atif Sedki
since its last meeting, voicing conviction that the meetings will have a significant impact on enhancing Jordanian-Egyptian relations.

Dr. Sedki, who was received at the airport by Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali, is also scheduled to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on ways of enhancing bilateral relations.

Dr. Majali told reporters at the airport that Dr. Sedki's visit, "which comes at a time when the whole Arab World is facing crucial decisions," was of extreme importance for Jordan.

Urging Arab solidarity, Dr. Majali said Arab disunity will only incur losses on all Arab countries, especially that a regional order is being imposed on the region.

The Egyptian premier said the joint committee's meetings are of extreme importance since four years have passed

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France stops role in Red Sea inspection

were informed of it. Informed sources told the London-based Al Hayat newspaper that Canada turned down a U.S. request to replace French naval forces in monitoring the embargo in the Red Sea.

Al Hayat quoted the sources, who were not identified, as saying that the Canadian government totally rejected replacing the French forces.

The sources commended the French decision saying it "reflects France's understanding of the Jordanian stand and manifests its desire to narrow the gaps and reconcile international legitimacy as a slogan and international reality in reality."

The spokesman was quoted by AFP as saying that the decision to quit the force was taken in close coordination with the U.S. and His Majesty King Hussein and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali

(Continued on page 10)

Arafat cuts a lonely figure in thrust for peace

By Abdul Aziz Barroubi
Reuter

TUNIS — Critics say Yasser Arafat finally lit the fuse for his own political destruction when he sealed a peace deal with Israel and shook the hand of his old nemesis Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn.

More than seven months and a lot of spilled Palestinian blood later, the PLO chief is still trying to grasp the symbols of statehood and ride out hostility from his own people.

But the long-delayed signing of a Palestinian self-rule deal on Wednesday in Cairo may give him another much-needed lift after the difficult phase that followed February's Hebron mosque massacre of more than 30 Palestinians by an Israeli settler.

Mr. Arafat has paid a price for his personal triumph in Washington. Each time Israel and its Western friends — who shunned him for years as a ruthless man of violence — stress his importance to the peace process, his star falls further in the Middle East.

He has been snubbed by former Arab bankrollers. Old and trusted allies in the Palestine Liberation Organisation have deserted him. Disillusioned Palestinians have burned his portrait in the Gaza Strip — part of the embryo homeland under the delayed accord with Israel.

If Syrian and Lebanese-based Palestinian hardliners have their way, Mr. Arafat will never set foot in his land. They want his head.

Asked in an interview with Reuters a few weeks ago when he expected to set up his headquarters in the West Bank town of Jericho, Mr. Arafat said: "Who knows now? Let us wait and see."

Associates say Mr. Arafat, one of the Middle East's great survivors in 30 years of directing the guns-and-words campaign for a Palestinian state, now spends most of his time working alone for up to 18 hours a day.

Cash for the PLO from wealthy Arab states stopped rolling in after his disastrous embrace of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over the invasion of

Kuwait. Relations with Baghdad are now frosty.

"When I was a young man and began this march, I knew it was going to be a long struggle," Mr. Arafat said. "I knew it was going to be a very difficult path. I'm used to troubles in my life. I don't remember a day without troubles."

The Hebron massacre and subsequent killings of Arab protesters dealt him more body blows.

Support for him inside the 15-strong PLO Executive Committee has shrunk: Five quit over the self-rule accord secretly negotiated in Oslo and five more challenged him after Hebron.

This means Mr. Arafat — already, under fire over his autocratic leadership style and accused of making too many concessions to Israel — can no longer rely on an automatic majority to ram through his decisions.

And for the first time, more than 100 officials at PLO headquarters in Tunis have publicly voiced strong reservations about his peace strategy. Western diplomats say Mr. Arafat's fate depends more than ever on Israeli-U.S. willingness to deal with him.

Mr. Arafat has no choice but to try to cut the best deal he can with an Israel that knows it has him in an armlock. Besides, whatever his Palestinian opponents say, there is no one of his stature in the PLO to replace him.

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, who as defence minister once told his troops to break Palestinian bones, complains that negotiating with the wily PLO chief is like haggling in a Middle East Bazaar. But Mr. Arafat is now seen as less of a guerrilla demon by many Israelis.

Short, bald and potbellied, Mr. Arafat, who will be 65 in August, hardly cuts a heroic figure. Yet he is a master tactician who has survived many plots and assassination attempts since becoming PLO chairman in 1969.

A tireless traveller and warm, witty and persuasive in private, he still believes he can turn the odds in his favour. "The thing that keeps me going, the most precious thing

that is always on my mind is the regaining of dignity for the Palestinian people, and restoring the name of Palestine to the map of the Middle East," he says.

With his chequered Arab headscarf and military fatigues, bulging eyes and stubble, Mr. Arafat has given the Palestinians an unlikely but instantly recognisable figure on the world stage. One of them is known as Al Khayr — the old man.

Born in Cairo in 1929, he took part in battles between Arabs and Jews in the emerging Israel in 1948. He then set up a successful engineering business in Kuwait before devoting himself to the cause of gaining an independent Palestinian homeland in 1965.

He grabbed the headlines as spokesman for a new breed of Palestinian — the young fedayeen, dispossessed, angry and dedicated to armed struggle against the Jewish state.

The defeat of the Arab armies by Israel in 1967 led to the Palestinians taking their cause into their own hands, and Mr. Arafat toured the globe with all the trappings of a head of state and became a champion to many in the Third World.

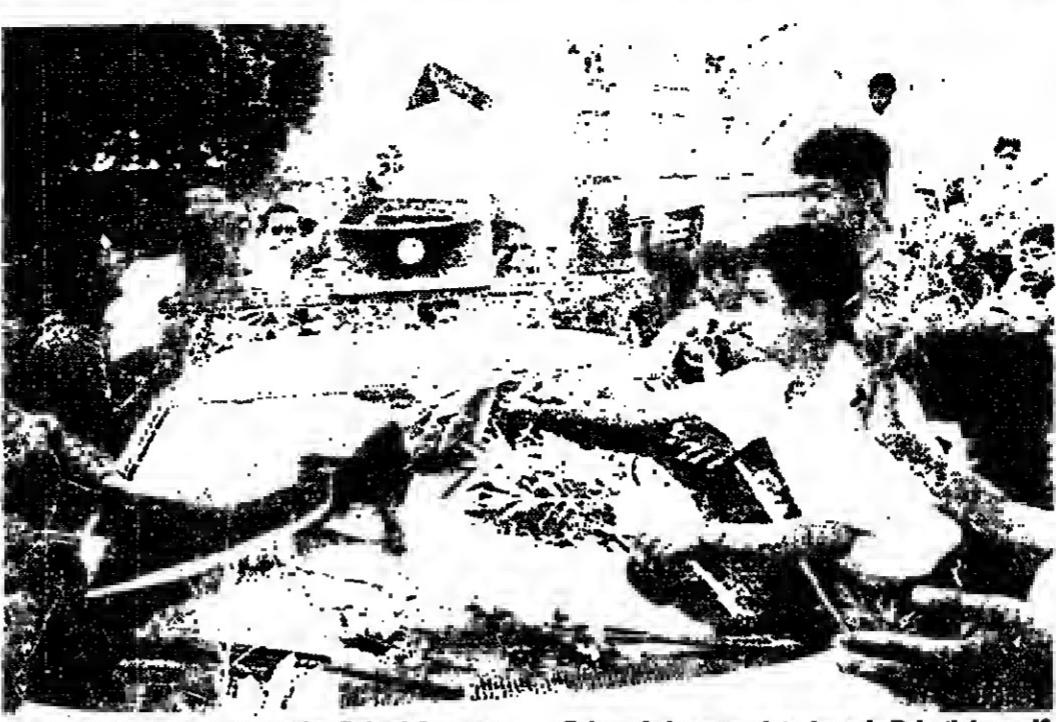
Showing political and diplomatic skill, Mr. Arafat remained head of the PLO through its ejection from Jordan in 1970 and expulsion from Beirut after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

He then began a new diplomatic tack towards peace and basked in the international sympathy generated by the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

He was made president of the State of Palestine by the Palestinian parliament-in-exile in 1988, and recognised by more than 70 countries.

For years a bachelor who said he was tied to the Palestinian movement, Mr. Arafat eventually married Suha Tawil, a Palestinian Christian researcher less than half his age, in 1992.

That same year he underwent brain surgery in Jordan to remove a blood clot after his plane crashed in the Libyan desert.



CELEBRATIONS: Celebrating Palestinians cover a passing Israeli police car with flowers in Jericho on Wednesday, after the signature in Cairo of the accord to launch Palestinian self-rule (AFP photo)

Israel and PLO sign self-rule accord

(Continued from page 1)
Palestinians.

Lebanon wished the PLO well:

In order to meet the signing deadline, the two sides had agreed during late-night negotiations to disagree on differences such as the size of the Jericho area to be given to the PLO.

Mr. Arafat hailed the accord as "the start of an end to Israeli occupation and a chance to create new relationships."

He signed the nearly 200-page document on an ornate marble-topped Chinese-built conference centre. Mr. Rabin followed.

"The whole world has witnessed the tip of the iceberg of the problems we will have to overcome in implementing even the first phase," Mr. Rabin said. "There is opposition on both sides to what we are doing today. It will require on both sides to succeed in bringing about peaceful coexistence. It's a very daring project and we are committed to make it work."

The two leaders stood for more than two hours before a sky-blue backdrop worthy of Hollywood — a giant polystyrene sphinx in front of three pyramids, flanked by maidens of ancient Egypt, releasing doves.

"Negotiations 'do' work, peace is possible," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said after the signing. The United States sponsored the peace talks along with Russia.

"We have not yet seen the end of contention in the Middle East... the spirit of compromise that we see here must not fade," Mr. Christopher said.

Military officials said the release began right after Israel and the PLO signed in Cairo the accord to launch Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israel Radio reported that about 1,000 prisoners would be let out Wednesday and more on Thursday — all but four from the mainstream PLO movement.

The four were Islamic fundamentalists who pledged to support autonomy.

Under the Cairo deal, 2,500 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed quickly and another 2,500 when the Israelis have completed their withdrawal.

The PLO has also demanded that the remaining 5,000 be released. But timelines still have to be negotiated.

All those up for release have to sign a paper pledging support for autonomy.

Opposition Likud legislator Amman Begun, son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who signed the 1979 Camp David agreement with Egypt, called the signing a "surrender to terrorism."

With the signing, Israel is to

begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho.

Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

The Israelis keep control of Gaza's Jewish settlements and the border crossings to Egypt and Jordan. And Israel still can move troops into the self-rule zones "in the event of the outbreak of general hostilities or imminent threat of such hostilities."

The United Nations and the European Union (EU) joined world leaders in hailing the signature of the accord.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said the signing "sets an example to the region as a whole" and called on the international community to keep its promise to give financial support for Palestinian autonomy.

The EU "warmly hailed" the signing and called for the "rapid and full application of the declaration of principles" signed in Washington last September.

In Athens, the Greek presidency of the European Union welcomed the signing of the agreement which it said was "a major step" towards full implementation of the Washington declaration on Palestinian autonomy.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Sbaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

"I'm not really interested," said Avi Levy, a construction worker just out of the army, as he walked down the pedestrian mall. "Maybe it will lead to peace, but I don't know how real it will be and I don't believe in it."

Rabin, Israel's man of war — and peace

By Howard Goller

Reuter

TEL AVIV — Yitzhak Rabin led Israel in the 1967 war. As prime minister a generation later, he sealed a peace deal with the PLO in an equally swift and surprising move.

It was only fitting that after signing a landmark draft accord with Israel's arch-foe in September 1993, the gravel-voiced former general rushed from Washington to Tel Aviv to toast the Jewish new year with the army's top brass.

Israelis customarily wish one another a year of happiness. Mr. Rabin wished the generals a year of abundant security.

Mr. Rabin wrested control of the Labour Party from longtime rival Shimon Peres and came to power in 1992 vowing to bring Israel peace and security. Far more pragmatic than visionary, he said Israel had to take calculated risks for peace.

"What can we do? Peace you don't make with friends, but with very unsympathetic enemies. I won't try to make the PLO look good. It was an enemy, it remains an enemy, but negotiations must be with enemies," Mr. Rabin said.

Still, many were relieved when it emerged that he had approved the secret deal with the PLO — an organisation Israeli governments had branded as a "terrorist" group seeking the destruction of the Jewish state.

When Mr. Rabin shook PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's hand on the White House lawn, critics accused him of breaking every important promise he had ever made. Supporters praised him for bold leadership.

In the final run-up to the signing of a comprehensive self-rule accord with the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin also turned his attention to Syria, sending fresh peace proposals to Damascus with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mr. Rabin also said Israel would be ready to dismantle settlements for peace.

Born in Jerusalem in 1922, Mr. Rabin joined the Palmach military underground at age 18. After World War II, he helped free illegal Jewish immigrants in Palestine and in 1946 the British jailed him for six months in the Gaza Strip.

An army chief in the 1967 war, Mr. Rabin led his troops in the war against Egypt, Jordan and Syria that brought Palestinians under Israeli rule in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip.

But 12 days before the war, Mr. Rabin later admitted, he closed himself for 24 hours of "deep emotional distress." He took an injection to help him sleep before leading Israel to a stunning victory.

Mr. Rabin left the army after 27 years to enter public life in 1968, first as ambassador to Washington and, from 1974 to 1977, as Israel's only "Sabra" or native-born minister.

His army credentials made him popular with war-hardened Israelis but his policies puzzled them.

His first government fell amid a scandal over an illegal foreign bank account held by his wife, but Mr. Rabin remained powerful enough in his Labour Party to win the defence minister's job in a coalition formed in 1984.

When in 1987 Palestinians of the occupied territories launched a popular uprising for independence, Mr. Rabin responded with an "iron fist" policy. He vowed to fight with "might, power and beatings."

But he also pushed for peace with Palestinians, drafting plans put forward by hardline Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Their coalition crumbled in 1990 when Mr. Shamir refused to go the distance.

In 1992 Mr. Rabin came back to smash Mr. Shamir, putting former general in the front line of a tough campaign that portrayed Labour as the party of both peace and security.

Entering office, Mr. Rabin offered to meet his Arab enemies in their capitals, froze much new Jewish settlement in the occupied territories; and negotiated a peaceful end to a four-day army siege of a Palestinian university.

His bold moves mended frayed relations with the United States. Israel's closest ally, and with Egypt, which had signed a peace treaty in 1979.

But the massacre by a Jewish settler of more than 30 Muslim worshippers in a mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron in February deepened Palestinian mistrust of Israel and its leaders.

And Mr. Rabin was quick to order the sealing of the occupied territories from Israel — killing seven Israelis in a suicide bombing in the northern town of Arbil on April 6.

Mr. Rabin and his wife, Leah, have a son and daughter.

Clinton sees chance for Israel-Syria breakthrough

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday Israel and Syria recognise they had an opportunity to achieve a peace breakthrough this year.

Speaking at the Carter presidential centre in Atlanta in a satellite television news conference organised by CNN, Mr. Clinton said: "All of us believe that we have a greater chance to achieve a breakthrough than ever before... we have a real chance to make progress this year."

Mr. Clinton said he based his optimism on conversations with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, including a telephone call with Mr. Rabin earlier on Tuesday.

"Obviously since those conversations are private I can't

say more. But I honestly believe that, and I think the other actors in this drama believe as well," Mr. Clinton said.

He said Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin had agreed Secretary of State Warren Christopher should act as mediator. Mr. Christopher, who will wrap up his Middle East shuttle Wednesday, said he would return to the region to continue his efforts within the next two weeks.

Israeli-Syrian peace efforts are likely to move to the forefront of Middle East diplomacy following Wednesday's signing of a major agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation under which Israel will withdraw from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

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21:05 Amsterdam (KL) Istanbul (TK)

01:30 Amsterdam (KL) Istanbul (TK)

02:30 Cairo (MS) Istanbul (TK)

21:55 ... Cairo (MS)

14:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)

17:45 ... Dubai (ISU)

21:05 ... Rome (EM)

01:30 ... Istanbul (TK)

02:30 ... Cairo (MS)

21:55 ... Amsterdam (KL)

14:25 ... Dubai (ISU)

Home News

International freight company may use Jordan as transit point

By Ian Atallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A major British-owned international freight forwarding company is investigating the possibility of using Jordan as a main transit point for its freight services and expanding its currently minimal working relationship with Royal Jordanian airlines.

Aqel Biltajih, RJ's executive vice president, told the Jordan Times that representatives from MSAS Cargo International Ltd. would be visiting RJ air cargo facilities at Queen Alia Airport late Wednesday afternoon and would hold meetings with RJ officials later in the evening. "When peace comes, this region will be very interesting place for business," said Dick Hustler, MSAS commercial manager.

He said that his company had only begun to investigate the possibility of using Jordan as a "gateaway country" for its freight routing within the last twelve months "because Jordan had never been in that position before."

But if the Israeli-PLO peace process takes firm root, he said, "this region will redevelop and create business in new ways, and in this case Jordan will be an ideal gateway."

Although freight forwarding corporations are difficult to rank exactly in terms of overall size, said Mr. Hustler, MSAS ranks among "the top five, if not the top three freight forwarding companies internationally," he claimed, with an annual turnover of \$1 billion annually. He added that the company's strongest business is in southeast Asia and Singapore.

MSAS Commercial Director Stephen Chipping said that the company was investigating expending the use of RJ's cargo services because RJ's flight network "fits in very well with our own overall network," with RJ's links between the Middle East and western countries and the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Paris seminar meant to promote French-Jordanian trade relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and France are today opening a seminar under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan designed to promote French-Jordanian economic and trade relations.

"We are seeking increased Franco-Jordanian cooperation through boosting the volume of exchanged trade and implementing joint industrial ventures through this seminar which is organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA)," according to Association Vice Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa.

The seminar, scheduled to open in Paris, will be addressed by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf who will stand in for the Crown Prince and will tackle ways for adjusting the French-Jordanian balance of trade which is heavily in favour of France, according

to Mr. Tabbaa.

Noting that France sells Jordan \$150 million of products annually, Mr. Tabbaa expressed hope that the seminar would result in increasing and diversifying Jordanian goods exported to France, especially fruits and vegetables, and Jordanian potash and phosphate whose exports have trebled over the past two years.

There are indeed vast opportunities for increasing trade and economic cooperation through the private sectors of the two countries, not only in economic and trade affairs but also in tourism where Jordan hopes to attract an increased number of French and other European visitors, said Mr. Tabbaa.

On the eve of the Paris meeting, Dr. Khalaf met in Paris with French government

officials and representatives of business associations to discuss topics related to the seminar which was organised in cooperation with the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce.

Stressing the need for the creation of a joint French-Jordanian businessmen council, the minister said that French investors have a great opportunity to launch ventures with Jordanian counterparts in light of Jordanian laws and regulations governing investments in the Kingdom.

The idea of creating a joint council was welcomed by the French officials and businessmen who promised to dispatch a team to Amman soon to follow up this matter with Jordanian businessmen and conclude an agreement in this concern.

3 die, 1 injured in car accident

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

acting quickly, and not just wait until next year for a conference to remind them of the environmental dangers," said Mr. Heber.

He pointed out that the best way to accomplish the region's goals is by finding people who are interested and ready to support environmental issues.

Dr. Hussein Zaki, the other Jordanian representative at the pannel, said that since 1982 laws on environment have been forwarded to parliament but no legislation has been implemented to introduce a law regarding environmental protection.

M. Heber of the Max Plank Institute at the Halle University, Germany said the conference should be a starting point for exchange of experience among countries.

"Countries need to start

pollution and chairman of the eight-man panel.

Mahjoub Al Haiba, Morocco representative, said there is a need to create an informal network specialised in the environmental law in the Arab World and to constitute a channel between the Arab World and specialists in Europe in the environment field to exchange information and specialists among these countries.

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"Countries need to start

Conference recommends adoption of environment policies, legislation

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The need for an international code for the protection of the environment and international cooperation with the European Union countries were seen as the most significant issue of the conference on environment panel discussion regarding ways of adopting environmental policies and legislation.

Participants at the two-day conference which ended Wednesday recognised that environment does not have political borders, and action is required "if we want to live in a safe regional environment."

"We are compelled to intensify efforts to ensure that environmental laws are implemented and a special code to deal with the environmental problems is in place," said Ahmad Obeidat a president of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental

pollution and chairman of the eight-man panel.

Mahjoub Al Haiba, Morocco representative, said there is a need to create an informal network specialised in the environmental law in the Arab World and to constitute a channel between the Arab World and specialists in Europe in the environment field to exchange information and specialists among these countries.

Dr. Hussein Zaki, the other Jordanian representative at the pannel, said that since 1982 laws on environment have been forwarded to parliament but no legislation has been implemented to introduce a law regarding environmental protection.

M. Heber of the Max Plank Institute at the Halle University, Germany said the conference should be a starting point for exchange of experience among countries.

"Countries need to start

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film in Spanish entitled "Yo Soy Esa" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 613077).
★ Video film in English on sculptor Henry Moore (part one) (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Kheire) on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert (by the National Music Institute) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

GALA DINNER AT KARAK CASTLE
★ Departure by bus from Amra Hotel on Thursday at 3:00 p.m., return to Amman will be late in the evening. Trip is sponsored by the Friends of Archaeology.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Drawings exhibition by Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Walid Sheet and Nazeem Hamed at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).
★ "Exhibition of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Food Industries '94" at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 857218, 847113).
★ Art exhibition by Bashar Ibrahim at the Royal Cultural Centre.
★ Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lewlbeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Muhraddin at Ah'ad Art Gallery.
★ Exhibition by artists Dr. Ali Ghoul, Hussein Da'seh, Adnan Al Sharif, Abdul Hussein Tawaji, Salman Abbas, and Hafez Al Droubi at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

Ministry plans rescheduling municipal councils' debts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is studying the possibility of rescheduling the debts a number of municipalities owe to a number of money-lending organisations in the course of measures to help local councils shoulder their responsibilities and carry out their projects, according to a statement Wednesday by Minister of Municipal Affairs Ahmad Aqaiyah.

Parallel to this study, the ministry will also be involved in examining the local council's needs and working out a comprehensive plan that would run side by side with the nation's new five-year socio-economic development scheme and cater to the requirements of the government's decentralisation programme, the minister said.

The plan will help local

councils to reduce spending, and avoid any wastage of public funds with the help of a new set of laws and regulations governing the work of local councils in Jordan, added the minister.

Criticising the municipal councils for their failure to speed up the process of collecting funds the public owes in the form of fees and taxes, the minister said that the new set of regulations would deal with such situations and would help councils improve their collection system.

Currently, he said, the ministry is conducting a full examination of means to stimulate the work of joint councils' services and a general meeting has been scheduled for next week when representatives of various councils would review progress done in this respect.

Prince Hassan: Peace in the region should take into account people's needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Any peace envisioned for the Middle East should be formulated from within the region and must not be planned from outside the area, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

"Any peace in the area should take into account the humanitarian dimensions and the people's needs," said the Crown Prince at a meeting with a visiting team representing the U.S. National War College.

In that respect, Jordan has shown total commitment to the attainment of a just and durable peace based on the Kingdom's concept of history and its understanding

of the region's needs and requirements and has defended the idea and the concept of a just and permanent settlement over the past decades, said the Crown Prince at the meeting held at the Royal Court.

In reviewing Jordan's role at the regional and international levels, the Crown Prince said that the Kingdom has followed a balanced policy and at the same time it has shouldered its responsibilities towards the other Arab countries.

In that respect, Jordan has served as a safe haven for waves of displaced people since the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict and has been advocating the human rights cause

despite the difficult circumstances, added Prince Hassan.

In reply to questions by the team's members, the Crown Prince outlined Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the peace process and the status of Jerusalem as well as the Gaza-Jericho first accord.

He stressed the need for separating human heritage, which represents man's civilisation, from politics in dealing with the Jerusalem question.

Prince Hassan emphasised the need for protecting the special status of Jerusalem, demanding that the restoration of its sites be the sole mission of

the Waqf institution which has retained its responsibility for safeguarding the holy places for decades.

The U.S. team also met Wednesday with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai, and reviewed the general situation in the region and issues of common interest.

The team was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their rule in safeguarding peace and security. Discussion also covered matters related to the exchange of military expertise and coordination in military affairs.

Indian company to buy \$35m worth of potash from APC

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Indian firm has secured a JD2.8 million in net profit from its operations in 1993, registering a 53 per cent increase over the profits made in the previous year, according to the company General Manager Hamdi Habashen.

The company's 362 trucks earned the company gross revenues amounting to JD6 million during 1993, registering a 24 per cent increase over the 1992 figures, Mr. Habashen said.

He said this is a record achievement for the company which was established by the governments of Jordan and Syria in 1975.

Referring to the amounts of goods trucked by the company, he said, they were estimated at 1.12 million tonnes in weight in 1993.

In light of these positive results, the company's general assembly which met last week in Damascus has given its consent for renewing part of the company's fleet and also to expand the company's operations by introducing a passenger bus service operating between Jordan and Syria.

He said that the company's management will shortly embark on a study on this project.

Jordanian exports to India during the April-March financial year (1993-94) totalled \$125 million.

Jordan's purchase from India during the same period were about \$40 million.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. John said his company was mainly involved in promoting the use of potash among Indian farmers until the monopoly was removed.

"We are the only company in India which seeks to increase the use of potash as fertiliser by farmers," he said, adding that the firm was established 40 years ago.

"When the company was founded, Indian use of potash in agriculture was 5,000 tonnes," Mr. John said. It rose to 2.2 million just prior to the lifting of the state monopoly on imports, he added.

Following the government move to free potash imports in 1992 — which also meant an end to subsidies — prices went up by nearly 280 per cent, he said. As a result, India's annual consumption of potash as fertiliser declined to 1.6 million tonnes.

APC has several Indian clients; but IPL is by far its largest importer in the sub-continent.

Mr. John, who was visiting the APC plant in Ghor Safi and Aqaba port facilities on Wednesday, before heading for Syria on Thursday, said his company was also interested in Jordanian phosphates.

"We will definitely be purchasing Jordanian phosphates, but it will take some time since the international prices of the product are high," he said, explaining that the Indian government subsidies for phosphates for use in agriculture were limited to processing plants, not importers.

"This means that we cannot offer competitive prices since we do not have a processing plant and are not eligible for subsidies," he said. "However, we might be able to gain an edge among independent importers."

IPL, which maintains offices throughout India, is a "joint sector" venture.

India's annual consumption of phosphates is around 3.5 million tonnes. About half of it is imported from Jordan.

In addition to potash and phosphate, IPL also deals in urea, sulphur and several other fertiliser-related products.

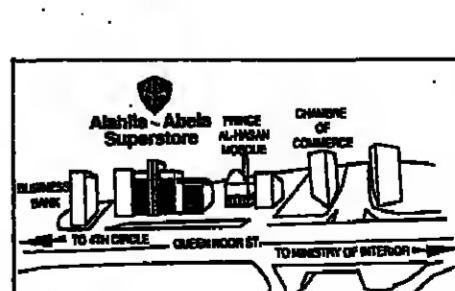
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Accord in place

THE ISRAELI-PLO accord on self-rule for the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho became a fact Wednesday in Cairo after last-minute efforts succeeded in "resolving" the remaining issues dividing the two sides. But how much the Palestinians have cause for rejoicing over the "historic" agreement remains to be seen.

For one thing, the actual withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from these two Palestinian territories is several weeks late, as the September pact called for the completion of Israeli withdrawal by April 13. What is even more disconcerting about the agreement is its cumbersome nature. Nearly two hundred pages were devoted for this purpose that included two annexes on the mechanics of the Israeli withdrawal, security and civil administration procedures. The maze of stipulations and provisions contained in the document signed Wednesday is so complex that it would need a standing judicial organ to interpret them for the two parties.

Besides, the text of the accord is replete with opportunities for direct and indirect Israeli interference and intervention practically on all levels touching the self-rule mechanism for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. It is clear that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has conceded only a facade of Palestinian self-rule with so many strings attached that virtually make the Palestinians in these two areas literally under continuous Israeli trusteeship control.

Suffice to recall that Israeli armed forces are virtually free to intervene in the "liberated" areas and roam their arteries should Rabin feel the security of his country is threatened. Even at the civil level, the Palestinian self-rule authorities would still labour under the mercy of the Israeli government even at the legislative level.

The PLO could be banking on the premise that the high-profile Israeli role in ruling and administering the Gaza and Jericho enclaves will recede with time especially by the time the final-status negotiations take place no later than two years after the implementation of the autonomy accord.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat must be also betting on the demonstration of Palestinian "good behaviour" on the ground as offering new possibilities for relaxing Israel's iron grip on the areas by virtue of the argument that the bulk of the security and civil administration provisions in place will be subject to periodic review on a six-month or one-year basis.

In short, the PLO appears poised to apply the lessons and tactics of the Zionist movement itself by turning down nothing and accepting anything and then building up on these limited gains. This constitutes a major departure from the old Palestinian posture that preached all or nothing for generations on end.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE ITS shortcomings, the agreement (signed Wednesday in Cairo) by the Palestinian and Israeli leaders constitutes a fruit of the long Palestinian struggle and is a welcome step on the long path towards complete freedom and independence, said Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. With the signing of the accord for the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy rule, the Palestinian leadership and people find themselves at a turning point and facing a new phase on the path to freedom, said the writer. It has to be pointed out that the Jericho-Gaza First agreement is not the end of the road, but rather the first solid move towards enabling the Palestinians regain full independence and freedom, added the writer. The final phase will be determined by the Palestinian people when all aspects of resolutions 242 and 338 — have been implemented and after the last stage of negotiations with the Israelis in the coming years, said Mr. Absi. He said the Palestinians could never reach this initial stage leading to independence had they been passive and had they given up the struggle through the intifada and other forms of resistance activities. Of course, be added, the Cairo agreement does not rise to the level of sacrifices offered by the Palestinian people, nor does it satisfy the aspirations of the masses, but still it is a beginning of the end of the long sufferings.

THE CAIRO accord is one of the worst forms of conspiracies by the Jews and the Americans against Arab rights, said George Haddad, a columnist in Al Dustour daily. It is hard to believe that the conspiracy is considered by Cairo as a solution for the Palestine question or even a first step towards a solution, he said. Most of the Arab regimes, which approve of the deal, have allowed themselves to succumb to the U.S.-Israeli pressures and to allow the Palestinians to be annexed to the Jewish state, said the writer. I can only join the voices of numerous writers and sensible people of the Arab World who have warned that the Palestinian-Israeli accord has totally destroyed the spirit of the Madrid conference, which was convened for the purpose of attaining complete peace based on U.N. resolutions, he said.

Student abuse: the educational plague

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

ONE TRULY upsetting educational problem, widespread at both school and college levels in the Arab society, is what one may most fittingly call student abuse.

Despite the many courageous steps we have taken in pinpointing and redressing the various ailments in the educational fields, student abuse remains a plague of which our educational institutions have yet to become adequately conscious.

The problem is both multifaceted and multidimensional. In what follows, however, I shall confine myself to that aspect of it which concerns the relationship between the student and the teacher — putting aside for the time being the student's relation to the educational establishment, to other students and to his/her own temperament and personality, a relation which is no better than that which exists between the student and the teacher.

In its most blatant form, student abuse is reflected in the appalling practice of physical punishment, which is still prevalent at many of our public schools. To be sure, such practice, which was very common in the sixties and seventies, has remarkably decreased and lessened — thank God. Moreover, it has been outlawed by the Ministry of Education, and is little tolerated by it when it occurs. Nevertheless, it still does occur. Anyone who is well-acquainted with public school life in our society will unavoidably hear many tales of teacher brutality (some quite chilling), such as beating, flogging, boxing and wrestling students down — in addition to the "milder" forms of pushing, shoving, spitting and (yes) biting.

What is perhaps more worrying than physical punishment itself is the teachers' attitude towards it. I have had the opportunity, for a number of years, to exchange views with many teachers on the subject, in an atmosphere where they have generally felt comfortable enough to articulate what they have truly felt at the moment. Recently, I have made an extra effort to find more about it. Though the act itself has become much less common, the attitude towards it has not changed much. Seven out of 10 (of the sample I have randomly chosen) still believe in the virtues of the act, both those who practice it and those who do not. One practitioner says "the disciplines of education and psychology have not been invented by real teachers. There is nothing like a stick to make students listen and behave." Another teacher asserts: "I do not beat students, because I get in trouble, but I twist their arms and fingers a little too hard at times or shove them into a corner. Man, if I do not do it, I will have a heart attack and die."

What do you do, the argument goes, when you explain the lesson once, twice, three times, and the students do not get it?

What do you do when they do not pay attention, when they do not prepare, when they become rude and obnoxious? Nay, what do you do when they insult you in front of other students and in the presence of other teachers?

Preaching does not work, dialogue fails and threats are of no avail. In fact, the more you talk to them and the nicer you are, the ruder they become. Our students understand nothing but fear.

Well, I totally disagree. Certainly, I do pity teachers who hold such views, and I do understand the difficulty of the situation they find themselves in. But I wholeheartedly reject their line of thinking. A lot, in the teaching process, depends on the teacher's command of the material, seriousness in class, integrity of character, and strength of personality. To me the question is quite simple: if the students respect you (they do not have to love you by the way, for "loving" is the icing on the cake), they listen and they learn. If they do not, neither the stick nor teeth can force them to.

Another equally visible, and harmful form is verbal abuse. This found as much at the school as at the college level. In this context, teachers use a variety of tactics, methods and techniques, as varied as their peculiar personal styles, situations, social backgrounds, local cultures and egos. Such psychologically damaging atrocities range from swear words of all kinds, to threats, derision, cynical sermonising, dismissive remarks, undermining and condescending tones.

The more implicit and subtle versions of abuse, which I wish to highlight, include the following major three, which are related to the teaching process itself. Though some may not consider them forms of abuse, I do.

The first is seen in connection with the "weak" teacher. Obviously, not all teachers at our schools and universities are able teachers. Some, if not many, are in the profession either because they "cannot do any better," as they say, or because they have simply drifted into it. These are people who do not like what they are doing, and they are not good at it. Such teachers are a curse to the students. They spend much of their time putting them down, interrupting them whenever they make the smallest mistake and lecturing to them about it, (with the intention of humiliating them) and they fail many of them to prove that they are tough. They particularly hate good students because they feel threatened by them; they therefore make it a point to silence them. Some teachers who belong to this category can be diametrically opposed, i.e. they are too nice and too lenient with the students. In either case, students are abused. Clearly, very little education results.

The second appears in relation to those teachers who are qualified and able but who simplify the material too much. This is indeed a problem in our society. The Arab World conceives of the "good" teacher as the one whose sole job is to

make the material understood by the students in the clearest terms possible. To some extent, this is noble of course. But it can also be very harmful and damaging, for our task is not to cram information; rather (and in addition, perhaps), it is to develop and sharpen the minds of the students. The point to stress here is that many of the more intellectually curious and strong students will feel both bored and unmotivated. Eventually, they may be completely alienated and estranged. Such teachers, deliberately or inadvertently, generally underestimate the students' abilities, and many of our students suffer as a result. The danger here is that our institutions do not recognise this as a problem.

The third is the exact opposite. Many of our teachers do challenge the students, but they tend to overdo it. At times, they make it their mission to defy them. The classical example in our society is the Arabic grammar teacher. He/she comes to class to complicate things for the students and make them more difficult than they already are. The problem with teaching Arabic grammar, among many of course, is that the teacher talks to the students the way he/she talks to linguists and grammarians, forgetting that the students' only objective is to use the language, and not to analyse its function. Isn't it a shame that native speakers of Arabic, unlike most other speakers of native tongues, do not speak or read Arabic smoothly? If this is not abuse, what is it? Challenge, defy, test and evaluate! Fine. But also explain and teach! Reach out to those poor students! Descend a little from your ivory tower!

I believe that a good teacher is the one who is able to to maintain a balance, between simplifying and challenging and between provoking and challenging.

The causes of student abuse are infinite. Some spring from the teachers' dissatisfaction with their condition (low pay, low social status, low moral values, they themselves feel abused and so they abuse the students), from their misconceptions about the profession (many teachers often mix — because they do not know any better — firmness with cruelty), from inherited trends and modes of thinking from the culture at large (our culture often expects the student to say, "To him who teaches me a letter, I shall be a slave"); though famous saying has a positive meaning — respect of teachers — it can have very negative implications), and so on and so forth.

Student abuse is unacceptable anywhere. This is a problem we have to come to terms with, especially during these historic days when we need to graduate open-minded, sharp-minded, extremely confident, well-taught, well-educated, and well-rounded future citizens. If we abuse our students, we abuse ourselves.

The writer is professor of American literature at Yarmouk University.

Unification is Korea's real challenge, and it's not that far off

By Philip Bowring

SEOUL — Forget the nuclear issue for the moment. The most troubling thing about North Korea, as seen from bere in the South, is how to manage unification. That may seem a distant dream as the two sides shout insults. But it could, with little warning, become a current nightmare. The consensus is that it will happen in this decade. But the South's desire for unity is at odds with another burning national imperative: to catch up with Japan, the erstwhile coloniser, and the United States, the erstwhile savior from Communism.

Unification is not talked about much. But it is a nagging concern in a country that otherwise has every reason to feel pleased and confident. South Korea has achieved a remarkably smooth transition to a civilian-led democracy. Labour unrest is on the wane. The economy is back up to 7 per cent growth, led by investment and exports stimulated by the over-strong yen. A very high proportion of Koreans are in the most productive age bracket: 20 to 45.

Self-confidence, the Uruguay Round of trade talks and the goal of joining the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development have conspired to take some of the edges off of chauvinist and mercantilist sentiments. The financial market is slowly being opened up. Rice imports are to be permitted.

It is possible to envisage, say by 2030, a united Korea with a population two-thirds that of Japan and a correspondingly high GNP.

But excellence — devoting more resources to higher technology and achieving living standards on par with the developed nations — is at odds with uniting a peninsula of such stark differences. Unity is at odds with the trends to "internationalisation" and "globalisation" — today's catchwords in Seoul, where they get as much press coverage as the nuclear issue.

"Internationalisation" means opening up an economy that has admitted foreigners reluctantly, and plugging into the best the rest of the world has to offer. "Globalisation" means increasing the clout of Korean companies, brand names and technology around the world.

Yet unification would likely turn the country on in itself. It might revert more permanently to isolation.

The problems Germany has faced pale in comparison. West Germany had per capita income about 3 times that of the East; South Korea's per capita GNP is anywhere from 4 to 10 times that of the North.

Officials and think tanks in Seoul believe they have learned lessons from Germany. The main one is the need for a gradualist approach, starting with cross-border trade and investment, which



The daunting challenge

Can Mandela deliver on his promise of a better life for all?

By Rory Channing
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) face a daunting task in delivering a better life to South Africa's black majority who have high expectations after surveying their first vote.

"It's now time to start rolling up sleeves and make things work, instead of just saying how to do it," said Tony Twine, economist with Business Consultancy Econometric.

He was speaking before white President F.W. de Klerk conceded defeat in last week's historic all-race elections.

Results from the four days of polling suggested that South Africa's new government of national unity would be dominated by the ANC but that Mr. de Klerk's National Party (NP) would enjoy an influential role.

But despite ANC euphoria over the thumping win, leading members of the party, such as Deputy President Walter Sisulu, harbour no doubts about the challenge ahead.

"My greatest fear is that the task is too big," he said. "Apartheid has done a great deal of damage and because of that we are going to take time to reconstruct South Africa, and there comes the question of the people becoming rather impatient." — ANC deputy president.

But, as it sets out to tackle those backlogs, it must also restructure the apartheid administrative apparatus and forge a workable, efficient federal system — untried here before — of nine regional governments linked to central government.

"The difficult part is still to come, to start managing the country," said Dave Mohr, chief economist with leading major institution Old Mutual. "It's going to be a long haul. It could take a

year, more, before all that settles down."

He said bureaucratic and other administrative glitches, which forced a one-day extension of polling into Friday and overshadowed the painfully slow ballot count, pointed to the sort of problems which lay ahead.

Mr. Mandela, who will be inaugurated as president on Tuesday next week, has already designated nation-building as a priority but analysts say the challenges stretch much further, trickling down through regional tax policies to integration of local government, refugee removal systems shaped by apartheid.

"It's a whole cobweb of inter-related, sensitive, com-

plex issues," said Twine. The ANC was apparently on course to win all provinces except two — the Western Cape, which is where white settlement of South Africa began and is likely to be an NP prize, and the Zulu-based Inkatha stronghold of KwaZulu-Natal.

ANC policies could shape those in all the regions but much will depend on the make-up of the regional balance of power, which will differ from area to area.

Independent economist Edward Osborn says the top economic issues facing the government range from fiscal discipline, balance of payments strains, civil service restructuring, job creation and labour relations to nurturing business confidence.

"It all adds up to a formidable challenge to initiatives in the business of government and one must wish them well, a steady nerve and a sensible pragmatism," he said.

Mr. Mandela has stressed his support recently for sound and market-oriented economic policy, and sought again on Sunday to reassure business and investors at home and abroad, saying he could never get their support by following a radical agenda.

But analysts said he faced a delicate juggling act trying to meet the expectations of his constituency and maintaining the financial stability sought by business and investors.

Already, the NP has charged that the ANC's reconstruction programme would cost 15 times more than it says.

Mr. Mandela, the analysts said, sent a welcome signal to foreign bankers and investors in Sunday, recommending that current Central Bank Governor Chris Stals be retained. They were encouraged by the almost all-inclusive, peaceful elections.

They are now watching the choice of cabinet and the May 10 presidential inauguration address for further signs of future policy.

Yet unification would likely turn the country on in itself. It might revert more permanently to isolation.

The problems Germany has faced pale in comparison. West Germany had per capita income about 3 times that of the East; South Korea's per capita GNP is anywhere from 4 to 10 times that of the North. Officials and think tanks in Seoul believe they have learned lessons from Germany. The main one is the need for a gradualist approach, starting with cross-border trade and investment, which

Weekender

May 5, 1994

Published Every Thursday

U.S. women learning how to play hardball

By Sarah Tipit
Reuter

ORLANDO, Florida — A solemn funeral recently took place at an Orlando baseball field to bury a decades-old mentality.

Three pallbearers placed a softball and lightweight aluminum bat into a grave, and a cluster of female athletes shovelled dirt on top.

The "funerl" was intended to give the nation's first professional women's baseball team to play in the men's minor leagues the confidence to play hardball in the season which begins on Mother's Day, May 8.

Sponsored by Coors Brewing Co., the 25 women of the Colorado Silver Bullets baseball team are the first U.S. history to be recognised by the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues.

The new team will play at least 30 exhibition games against men's teams in 1994.

Coxed by Phil Niekro,

a former member of the New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves teams, the women — mostly raised on softball — are trying to absorb skills and strategies in a few weeks that male players have learned since boyhood.

Gina Satriano, 28, a deputy district attorney from the Los Angeles area, said she had no qualms about trading her white collar for a blue uniform and a \$20,000-per-season spot on the team.

"It only took me about half a second to know I didn't want to pass up this opportunity," said Ms. Satriano, who grew up surrounded by baseball. Her father, Tom Satriano, played for the California Angels and the Boston Red Sox teams.

In baseball's early years, women's teams known as "bloomer girls" travelled the nation challenging men's semi-pro and pro teams, but the games were never officially recognised.

The all-female team

popularised in the recent movie *A League Of Their Own* played in a private league against other all-female teams in the 1940s.

On June 23, 1953, organised baseball formally banned women from the minor leagues.

But Bullets President Bob Hope (no relation to the entertainer) says it's just a matter of time until a woman plays on a Major League team alongside men. The Bullets "represent a groundbreaking opportunity for female athletes to play ball in the big leagues," Mr. Hope said.

The Bullets held 13 tryouts around the country, drawing some 1,400 women athletes. Most came only with experience in recreational or all-women's league softball, a game of shorter bases and fewer innings.

Of those, 48 potential candidates were chosen for spring training in Orlando, and the list was eventually narrowed to two dozen.

Forget physical conditioning, coaches said. These women needed to learn the basics at spring training.

"They didn't know how to put their uniforms on," said Ray Pelletier, who describes himself as an "attitude coach" hired to boost morale among the athletes.

"If you come up through the farm system, you learn this by watching people do this. Coaches were actually showing them things that basic."

Mr. Nickro and his assistant coaches, who are all male, also had to make some adjustments.

"You cannot get in their face quite the same way because the reaction emotionally is going to be different," said Mr. Pelletier. "Men are quick to anger. Women are quick to hurt."

At a recent practice session, there was a sense of exuberance mixed with nervous energy as the women, ponytails protruding from under baseball caps, swung,

lunged and slid.

Julie Croteau, 23, dropped out of graduate school at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts to join the team. For her it was a chance for some sweet revenge.

Croteau excelled in the Little League of Manassas, Virginia, and played baseball on community teams until age 17. But her high school refused to let her play on the varsity team. She sued and lost.

"By senior year I was very confident I deserved to be on the team, but the varsity coach took me into his office and lectured me for 20 minutes about how I was being selfish," she said.

Other players admitted they weren't sure how to hold the ball when they showed up for the bullets tryout.

Now that the team is set, Mr. Nickro is trying to find ways to help his team win against some big, brawny odds.

"Their pitching has to im-

prove, their hitting has to get better, their arms have to get stronger, their running has to get better," Mr. Nickro acknowledged. "We've got a lot of catching up to do."

The women must not only learn to play good fundamental baseball, but they must learn strategies, such as how to generate runs by the mistakes of the other teams and how to throw more strikes.

At a recent exhibition game, pitcher Lisa Martinez, a high school science teacher, spun her arm in a tight windup and released several slow pitches underhand, a style she learned from softball. Several bewildered men at bat, unaccustomed to a ball coming from underneath, stared at her and struck out.

"There's more than one way to win a ballgame," Mr. Nickro said. "There's nothing in the rulebook that says you can't pitch that way. You can pitch standing on your head if you want to."

ADONIS is the pen name of the famous poet Ali Ahmad Said who was born in 1930 in Kassabin village located between Latakia and Tartus in Syria. He finished his secondary education in Latakia then moved to Damascus where he got a degree in philosophy from the University of Damascus in 1954. In 1956 he moved to Lebanon because he belonged to the banned political party, the Syrian Nationalist Socialist Party. In 1957 he was granted Lebanese nationality.

In Lebanon Adonis published his poems in *Shier* (Poetry) magazine first and later in *Mawaqif* (Standards) magazine. Adonis' early works were based on his readings of the newly-excavated old heritage of Syria, that of the pre-Islamic civilisations, namely Phoenician and Canaanite, and show the influence as well of Islam and particularly Al Ma'ari, the blind sage of Arab poetry.

In the seventies and the eighties Adonis became a leading figure in modern Arabic poetry. Yet, he was criticised by critics as shifting his thoughts and ideals from one extreme to another.

Adonis has, recently, raised a hot controversy among the cultural circles in Jordan following last year's Granada conference which grouped him and other Arab intellectuals with Israeli writers. The General Secretariat of the Arab Writers Union now based in Amman characterised Adonis' move as a step towards cultural normalisation with Israel. The Union's Secretary General Fakhri Ka'awar, has since early this year waged a campaign to force the Jerash Festival's management to withdraw an invitation it forwarded to the poet to attend the festival's poetry forum. Jordanian dailies have, for the last two months, been printing the opinions of both sides — those who are with and those who are against.

In an interview, Dr. Ali Al Share' the dean of the English Village at Yarmouk University and professor of Arabic literature, who is an expert on Adonis' works, said: "The whole picture is unclear. I haven't read minutes of the (Granada) meeting and, therefore, I don't know what Adonis said there. It would be unjust to judge."

Dr. Share' is for inviting the poet to the Jerash Festival and starting a free dialogue with him and see what he has to say."

Dr. Ahmad Thaher, professor of political science at Yarmouk University had a different view though. "I wonder why we are afraid of cultural normalisation with the Israelis or with any other society in the world? We have nothing to fear. I believe that a strong culture from within doesn't allow, by its own very nature, anything to pierce it from outside and I believe we should have read long ago Israeli literature, political and economic discourse."

"How could you face an enemy you know nothing about? Look at them. They know almost everything about us simply because they read about us. Arabic is the second language in (Israel)."

Dr. Ibrahim Al Khateeb, gynecologist and poet, thinks Adonis should be bearded.

"A poet should have a message in life, more so the Arab poet because he deals or is supposed to deal with such great issues as unity of the nation, freedom and above all the Palestinian problem."

Poet Edward Haddad thinks that a poet should have the freedom to open all doors and to converse with whomever he likes and to trod forbidden places because he is "a human being first before anything else."

"No bars on poets or writers should exist. From this point of view I see no harm done by Adonis sitting at the same table with Israelis, provided he didn't take their side," he asserted.

"I don't know why the General Secretariat of the Arab Writers Union has just now raised this storm about Adonis, while it is a common knowledge that the poet had already attended, several years ago, the Mediterranean conference together with Israeli writers," according to poet Nafez Abu Obeid.

"Why the Arab Writers Union kept silent then? Because, I reckon, those Israeli writers were representing the Israeli left. In Granada it was the reverse. Adonis does not carry the aspirations of the Arab nation for unity and freedom on his shoulders. I see that normalisation with the Israeli enemy is a dangerous process which we have to stand firmly against."

Engineer Ali Deebabah, an observer of the literary scene in Jordan says he believes that even if the Arabs can extend their cultural, economic and political relations with other nations of the world on equal grounds, they shouldn't normalise with "their enemy, who occupies their land."

"I am against Adonis or any other figure who tries to build up bridges between us and the Israeli enemy," he said.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Out of love you can speak with straight fury — Eudora Welty, American author.

Never vote for a tax bill nor against an appropriations bill — American political maxim.

I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind could comprehend it — Henry Emerson Fosdick, American clergyman (1878-1969).

The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well — Horace Walpole, 4th earl of Oxford, English author (1717-1797).

History must speak for itself, a historian is content if he has been able to shed more light — William L. Shirer, American author and journalist (1904-1993).

Ask the young, they know everything — Chinese proverb.

Adonis controversy continues

By Mohammad Daoud Tahboub

is Korea a bridge, an at far off

wall slow, right, income, and infar. But it is unlikely the Korean art will be ordered. Two years ago at high hopes for the Trade was becoming a trend in the States, of moving letters industries like government to the U.S. and reviewing the new qualified international nuclear issues and the fears of the consequences of any Korean brought into account. Two years ago at high hopes for the Trade was becoming a trend in the States, of moving letters industries like government to the U.S. and reviewing the new qualified international nuclear issues and the fears of the consequences of any Korean brought into account. Two years ago at high hopes for the Trade was becoming a trend in the States, of moving letters industries like government to the U.S. and reviewing the new qualified international nuclear issues and the fears of the consequences of any Korean brought into account. 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A risky occupation

By Jean-Claude Elias

For the past five years or so, numerous articles and stories have appeared in international newspapers and magazines on the subject of repetitive strain injuries (RSI). These come as the consequence of continuous and repetitive physical activity in someone's regular work or occupation.

The taxi driver who spends days behind the steering wheel is the ideal candidate for lumbago. Tennis professionals are all subject to the famous tennis elbow. Computer users are even "luckier" than others for they risk more than one type of RSI.

Needless to say that, by definition, RSI-subject people are those who spend, on a daily basis, a certain number of hours using a computer—four hours at least, for instance.

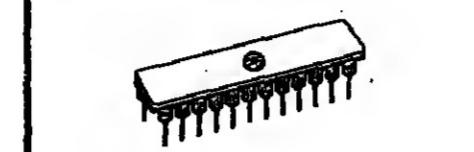
In the late eighties, Scandinavian countries caused a stir by declaring that, because of the radiation (electromagnetic, not radio-active) emitted by the screen, long hours before a computer screen can be teratogenic for pregnant women. Though never scientifically proven, the issue forced manufacturers to design screens with lower levels of radiation. Now "low radiation" monitors are becoming a standard and everyone is benefiting from the improved product. The new screens are certainly more comfortable than the ones produced in the eighties.

RSI due to keyboard typing are very frequent. Anyone who has spent, even once, five continuous hours entering data from a personal computer (PC) keyboard knows how his wrists, hands, arms and even his neck feel at the end of such a long working session.

Just like an American smoker used cigarette manufacturers years ago, blaming them for his lung cancer, PC users are suing computer manufacturers for RSI.

Bill Machrone, a specialised writer, thinks that "anyone who is mentally predisposed to RSI will suffer more than one who is not" (May 1994 issue of PC Magazine). In other words, if you like your machine,

chip talk



feel comfortable when using it and keep both your mind and body relaxed when working, you drastically reduce the chances of RSI. One can't but agree with Mr. Machrone.

A healthy mental attitude is not enough, however. There are simple, practical steps one can take that can help dramatically reduce the RSI risk factor.

It is easy to make it a habit, during long working sessions, to take one's eyes from the screen even for a few seconds. Every five or 10 minutes, and for three to five seconds, look at the window, at the floor, at the painting on the wall, at anything but the computer. These short seconds will make a huge difference at the end of the day, in terms of eye strain. Make sure there is enough light in the room, to reduce the contrast coming from the screen.

Make sure you are sitting at the right height, that your chair is ergonomically designed—it's not a luxury but a necessity. There should be enough space on the table, by the keyboard, to rest your wrists while typing. The keyboard and the screen also should be placed at the correct heights. Normally, the monitor should be 13 to 15 inches higher than the keyboard. It is of prime importance for long, daily hours of computing.

It does not make much sense to blame PC manufacturers for any type or form of RSI. They never told us to work 10 hours in a row, nor to use the keyboard in some exotic yoga position.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

FANTASTIC FACTS

- Mice would stay alive without water for much longer time than camels.
- A litre of vinegar weighs more in winter than in summer.
- The meat of the kangaroo never contains cholesterol.
- The power of modern telescope exceeds that of Galileo's.
- The crocus can push its way in growth even through layers of macadamised roads.
- Rivers exist in the ocean as well as on dry land.
- Toads, in distinction from frogs, have no teeth.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- You're an idle man, aren't you?
Astu rafid kassab, alayna kassab?
- No, I'm very active.
La, am mawtib fikken.
- Is your daughter ill?
Hal hawwataha mawreda?
- No, she enjoys good health.
La, issabha ta'asusa bekkha tayyebha.
- Is your neighbour poor?
Hal jazirah fikken?
- He's neither poor nor rich.
Layha fikken wala ghani.
- Is your flat big?
Hal shakikatun habiba?
- No, it's small.
La, issabha sagheera.
- Is the cheese fresh?
Hal el-jabal ta'ufa?
- Why are you angry?
Lebanon wa qadha?
- Somebody got on my nerves.
Shakikatun wa ahsabha.
- Is the nurse inside?
Hal al-nursatida fid-didha?
- No, she went out five minutes ago.
La, kharrabat minnha kħallol-didha?
- I'll see her tomorrow morning.
Sawla tkarha qadha salibek.
- You're welcome.
Abien wa salibek.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

AN INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- ★ A man rushed into the doctor's surgery, jumped on the doctor's back and began shouting: "One! Two! Three! Four!"
- "Wait a minute!" yelled the doctor, struggling to free himself. "What do you think you're doing?"
- "Well, doctor," said the eccentric man, "they said I could count on you!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- ★ Two friends were out hunting grouse. A bird suddenly flew out of the bracken right before their eyes; one of the men raised his gun and fired. The grouse uttered a despairing squawk, its wings folded and it fluttered to the ground.
- "You needn't have shot it!" said the other man. "The fall would have killed it!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- ★ A motorist who had the misfortune to run over a woman's dog was extremely apologetic. "I really am most terribly sorry, madam," he said. "I will of course replace your dog."
- "If you like," she replied, "but are you any good at catching rats?"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- ★ "Sarah," said the teacher, "what is a cannibal?"
- "Dunno, Miss."
- "Well, if you were to eat your parents, what would you be?"
- "An orphan, Miss."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) Identify the following cities:
 a- Eternal City.
 b- Windy City.
 c- City of the 1000 Minarets.
 d- City of Light.
 e- City of Brotherly Love.
 f- The Big Apple.
- (2) (i) On what island was Napoleon born (1769)?
 (ii) What island was Napoleon exiled to in 1814?
 (iii) On what island did Napoleon die in 1821?
- (3) KLM is the national airline of what country? What does the abbreviation stand for?
- (4) "March on, March on" is the title of what country's national anthem?
- (5) Who is called the Father of the Blues?

PUZZLES

(A) How is your vocabulary?

The following ten pairs of words have three letters in common. Fill in the blank spaces to make twenty different words, according to the definitions below.

...CAN	1	NAC...
...CAN.	2	.NAC..
...CAN.	3	..NAC..
...CAN.	4	...NAC.
...CAN...	5NAC
...CAN...	6NAC
...CAN...	7NAC.
...CAN...	8NAC.
...CAN.	9NAC...
....CAN	10NAC...

LEFT

1. The Pope's palace
2. To comment at great length
3. Mysterious
4. Malicious gossip
5. To solicit orders
6. A portable flask
7. Scrutinised
8. Emptiness
9. To cheat
10. A long-billed water bird

RIGHT

1. The hue of mother-of-pearl
2. Unperformed
3. A handoff
4. An enclosed fireplace
5. Noted late in N.Y. state
6. Yearbook
7. A familiar vegetable
8. Threatened
9. The establishes of a law
10. Outer casting of aircraft engine

(B) Find the missing number:

10 18 28 40 ?

COOKING IS FUN

MINI CHEESE FILLERS

INGREDIENTS

- 4 oz wholemeal flour
- 1 oz polyunsaturated margarine
- 1 oz vegetable shortening
- 2 oz low fat cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 oz button mushrooms, sliced
- 2 oz sweetcorn
- 1 egg, beaten
- 5 fl oz skimmed milk

METHOD

Mix together the flour and a pinch of salt in a mixing bowl. Rub the margarine and shortening into the mixture until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the cheese and just enough water to form a soft dough. Knead gently, cover and chill for 30 minutes. Roll out the pastry to ½ inch thick, cut out twelve 3-inch circles and use to line twelve small tartlet tins. Fry the onion in the oil for 5 minutes until softened. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Pour into the tartlet cases and bake at Mark 6-200°C-400°F for 20-25 minutes.

What does it mean to be poor?

By E. Yaghi

Recently, a middle aged woman was led into the office of a prominent ophthalmologist by her young son. When she saw the doctor, she stated, "please help me, my eyes hurt me very badly."

The doctor looked concerned and replied: "What's the matter, don't you have glasses?"

"I do," answered the woman in a tired and worn out voice, "but they're broken."

"Well," he said as he pushed himself back in his chair and studied her intently: "Why don't you go and buy some new glasses?"

Isn't life simple for those who live comfortably? But Nuhail not being one of the lucky ones, found life a living hell. How could she explain her desperate situation to someone who collected more money in a day than she would ever see in a year? She could only say with a face that felt like fire and a growing lump in her throat: "You see doctor, my husband is old and ill. His first wife didn't have any children for many years and then when he grew elderly, he married me and now we have children. Things were difficult but not impossible until my husband fell sick. Now I have no means to buy glasses and I can hardly see at all. My eyes are killing me and there is no way to stop the pain."

Had Nuhail touched his conscience? It seemed so, for he hastily scribbled some words on a piece of paper and told her to go to an optometrist and give it to him. She almost stumbled out of his office and though she still felt pain, it appeared as if a slight weight had been lifted from her troubled heart.

After she travelled by one bus and then another, she finally reached her destination and hot and tired and aching all over, handed an optometrist the paper which she had clasped tightly in her fist. Her faithful son and guide stood by her side waiting for her next command. After the optometrist read the paper he said to Nuhail: "Look, I sell these glasses for JD 60 but I'll give them to you at retail price which is JD 38."

What are mere JD 38? He thought he had done her a great service, which in a way he had, but quite crestfallen, she could only sadly reply: "I'm afraid that I don't have JD 38, sir."

He could only suggest, "then why don't you go back

to the doctor and tell him your problem?"

"What choice did she have, she thought. Her eyes were killing her and the pain drove her to forgetful pride and beg help and mercy from anyone she could. When she finally arrived back at the doctor's she approached him declaring: "The man who sells glasses asked for JD 38."

"So," he retorted, "that's good since they cost around JD 60, I think."

"Yes, that's good for someone who has JD 38. I have nothing, not even JD 10."

While she spoke, she noticed a blurred figure sitting next to the doctor. He was a plumber who worked very hard for his money. The doctor, perhaps feeling a bit generous, said with a reluctant huff: "Here take this!"

He handed her JD 28. She, embarrassed, could only say: "Thank you for your kindness, but where shall I get the rest?"

The plumber who spends his days crawling under sinks, and climbing up sides of houses in order to feed his large family stuck his hand towards her and said: "Here, poor woman. Take these JD 10 from my family and me. May God relieve your misery and pain."

Nuhail took the money and before she departed with her son said in a voice ripe to tears: "May God bless you both! You don't know how much you have helped me."

She turned and disappeared forever from the sight but the plumber couldn't forget her shaggy dusty appearance nor her plight of poverty. Some patients in the waiting room later told him: "We haven't seen such a poor person as this woman. She lives in a tin shack with her sick husband and children. During Ramadan one of her neighbours visited her and found the wretched family breaking their fast on tea and bread. Some neighbours felt sorry for them and sent for them and sent them food from time to time."

Can such extreme cases of poverty exist in Jordan? What can we do to help such people? It is a shame that the sun never shines on Nuhail while many live lives of complete luxury. Poverty isn't something that exists in a Never Never Land to people that are subhuman. There must be some kind of government relief for women like Nuhail. She and her family not only hardly have enough food to survive on, but are victims of the cold of winter and heat of summer. Nuhail's problem is everyone's and we are all our brothers' sisters' keepers.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 5

7:45 Gillette World Sports Special

9:10 Bonny

Outrage

An accident at a chemical plant, which releases poisonous materials, raises Bonny's suspicions as to who would benefit from this accident!

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Rear Window

Starring: Grace Kelly and James Stewart



Grace Kelly and James Stewart in the film Rear Window. That's at 10:20

10:20 The Last Bastion

The film illustrates the massive conflicts of the nations involved in World War II.

Sunday, May 8

7:45 Hotchpotch

JTV's weekly entertaining magazine programme hosted by Manal Azar.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

A Zealous Irishman offers to plant a bomb in the British embassy in Washington.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Black Powder

Abu Tawfiq turns a deaf ear to appeals by his workers for better pay, and health insurance benefits. Abu Adel spends his last day at the quarry.

Dawn's search for her parents leads her to unpleasant facts.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Island Son

Separation

A diabetic risks losing a leg; Dr. Catherine faces a case of "mercy killing"; and Dr. Keilani faces the possibility of losing his woman.

Monday, May 9

7:45 Science World

8:30 The Nanny

Nuch Shlip

Will the nineties be the death of Agent 007?

By Paul Harris
Reuter

LONDON — The power-mad masterminds of Spectre couldn't manage it.

But where the shadowy crime organisation failed in the course of many rip-roaring adventures, a changing world may succeed.

The 1990s could be the death of indestructible British super-spy James Bond.

The end of the cold war and the rise of AIDS and political correctness cast doubts on Agent 007's two main objectives of making love to beautiful women

and outwitting the Russians.

British actor Timothy Dalton quit the role this month after appearing in only two Bond films in eight years.

Previous Bonds Sean Connery and Roger Moore made seven each and became household names in the film series which has earned a record \$1 billion worldwide.

"I believe it is time to leave the wonderful image behind and accept the challenge of creating new ones," Dalton said.

Some commentators have said the "wonderful image"



Timothy Dalton as James Bond

of the fast-living British spy with a licence to kill has no place in the 1990s.

"In a political sense Bond is dated. The films do spring from a cold war world view. The films' view of women is utterly out of date," said Hugo Davenport, film critic of the Daily Telegraph.

Respected actress Honor Blackman, who played Bond Girl Pussy Galore in the 1964 Connery film Goldfinger said: "I really wish they didn't continue with Bond girls, because it is not the most admirable part of James' character."

The films are loosely based on plots and characters from novels by Ian Fleming. In the films Fleming's Russian spy organisation, Smersh, became Spectre lead by the evil genius Blofeld.

Dalton was chosen to bring Fleming's original style to the films, giving Bond a harder edge and placing less reliance on gimmicky gadgets, special effects and frequent sex.

Dalton's films, *The Living Daylights* and *Licence To Kill*, were different from those starring Moore and Connery, such as *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *From Russia With Love*. The Russians were no longer the enemy and the Bond girls were genuine characters, not just pretty faces.

Now the bunt is on to find a new Bond and his first mission is to be a hit with 1990s film-goers.

The trend towards a

realistic, less frivolous character is expected to continue.

"There is no reason to change the direction the films are going. Dalton was very good, he is my favourite Bond," said Schofield.

But some do not want to see Bond change. Graham

You can't stay stuck

while the rest of the world moves around you. But Bond can change, that is one of the film's great strengths," said Amanda Schofield of Eon Productions, which with producer Cubby Broccoli, has made 16 Bond films since 1962. They begin filming their 17th later this year.

American films don't have Bond's British class and beautifully designed sets. Bond should lead the film world, not follow," he said.

Bookmakers William Hill

also believe Bond has a

different appeal from

Rye runs the James Bond

007 Fan Club and Archive.

"People don't want to see

realism. The success of the

Bond films was based on

fantasy. People want to see

great stunts, brilliant sets

and beautiful, accessible

women," he said.

Mr. Rye believes Bond

can defeat the challenge of

Hollywood action heroes

like Arnold Schwarzenegger,

whose stunt-packed

film *Terminator 2* cost a

record \$95 million.

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Schwarzenegger and Rambo star Sylvester Stallone

are both 50-1 outsiders to

be the next Bond.

Since 1988 Mr. Rye has

run the fan club as a six-

day-a-week full-time job.

It has 2,500 members in 42

countries and sends out a

magazine three times a year

to more than 4,000 people.

Mr. Rye wants to see the

next Bond film go back

to the old swashbuckling

style. "I hope it will, but I

suspect it won't. They

(Bond film makers) seem to

have the idea that it is based

on realism," he said.

Some things have not

changed. The new, grittier

Bond will still need sex

appeal.

"Bond is suave and soph-

isticated. He has to be a

gentleman but there has to

be a tough side to him too,"

said Ms. Schofield.

Irish actor Pierce Brosnan

is the bookmakers' 2-1

favourite to be the fifth

Bond. Many believe he

would please critics from

both sides of the debate.

Fleming described Bond

as blue-eyed, tall and black

haired with a complexion

tanned by foreign climates.

Brosnan's dark, brooding

looks make him Mr. Rye's

number one choice to con-

tinue the Bond tradition.

"No one else is even

close. He has the look a

great Bond should have. He

can also carry off the cutting

wit," said Mr. Rye.

It seems Bond will always

be as lethal with a one-liner

as he is with a Walther

PKK. And according to Mr.

Rye he will need to be.

"There'll always be a

megalomaniac somewhere

trying to take over the

world," he said.



Roger Moore with Jane Seymour in the Bond film *Live and Let Die*



Sean Connery as James Bond

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Summer movies: Familiar genres feature unfamiliar faces

By John Horn
The Associated Press

Beverly Hills Cop III.
Mel Gibson remakes the James Garner TV western *Easy, Maverick*.

The summer film season is packed with an assortment of no-brainers, easy-to-sell sequels and lowbrow star vehicles.

Billy Crystal returns in *City Slickers* and there's yet another Karate Kid update

(without the karate kid himself, since he's now in his 30s). Watch for a movie version of *Lassie* and be warned now: Keanu Reeves has the title role in *Little Buddha*.

Nearly 60 movies will be released nationally between Memorial Day and Labour Day. The most notable summer titles include Disney's animated *The Lion King*, Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$100 million gamble *True Lies* and the late comedian John Candy's last movie, *Wagons East*.

In the year's most profitable season, and the studios aren't about to gamble.

Except a little. In the year's most surprising casting decisions, a couple of Hollywood's most respected performers — Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep — are setting aside their typically somber and often obscure screen images to anchor two of the season's highest-profile movie thrillers.

Following last year's little-seen *Fearless* and the small, independent film *American Heart*, Bridges will star in July 1's *Blown Away* as the leader of the

Boston bomb squad.

Streep, whose credits include the Australian story *A Cry In The Dark* and the epic *Out Of Africa*, chuckles her various accents to play an American whitewater guide in the action film *The River Wild*, due in August. Ever the method actress, Streep even did her own stunt work.

Audiences will have the last word on whether the casting-against-type works.

The movies' directors are confident it does.

"I just thought it would be a lot of fun to see her doing something so different from the perceived persona that she has," says Curtis Hanson, who directed Streep in *The River Wild*.

"I'm a big fan of Meryl, and I don't mean this to be pejorative, but I felt that many times people have admired her acting and the characters she has played without identifying so much with those characters. And I thought if we could put her in a movie where the audience really gets sucked in to identify with her... that we would have something that would really be

special."

Streep plays Gail Hartman, whose failing marriage to David Strathairn is as turbulent as the rapids where the family vacations. The whitewater expedition turns calamitous when the Hartmans meet up with bad guy Kevin Bacon.

Filmed on Oregon's Rogue and Montana's Kootenai and Flathead Rivers, "The River Wild" aims to turn the usual male action story upside-down.

"First of all, (Streep's) character is a wife and mother, which are trappings the typical male action hero does not bring along," Hanson says.

"What motivates Meryl's character in this whole story is taking a trip to bring her family closer together.... It ends up being about that — but in a very different way than was anticipated."

Bridges previously played opposite Clint Eastwood in 1974's *Thunderbolt And Lightfoot* and Glenn Close in 1985's *Jagged Edge*. For the most part, however, the actor has shunned such mainstream roles in favour of modest stories driven by interesting characters and thoughtful screenplays — in other words, nobody sees his movies.

That may change this summer.

In *Blown Away*, a big-budget story from recently moribund MGM, Bridges' bomb-squad expert must outwit and survive a fiendish bomber, played by Tommy Lee Jones.

"I expressed an interest in Jeff and Tommy and I thought they both would say no because at that time neither was known as an action star," says *Blown Away* director Stephen Hopkins. Jones had not yet appeared in *The Fugitive* when *Blown Away* was cast.

Hopkins, whose credits include *Predator 2* and *Judgment Night*, says *Blown Away* hopes to distinguish itself from other action films by focusing as much on story as on pyrotechnics.

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Forrest Gump, opening July 15, stars Philadelphia Oscar winner Tom Hanks as a simple-minded hero of war and business not cut from the usual matinee idol pattern.

Co-starring Robin Wright, *Forrest Gump* cannot be easily described: It tries to mine a new storytelling vein. Facing such simply sold concept movies as *City Slickers 2* and *The Flintstones*, *Forrest Gump* ends up looking unusual — and tricky to promote.

"A lot of the people in the film are much more real than we are used to," Hop-

kins says. "In my other films, it's usually 'blow up large areas of real estate and kill as many people as possible.'"

Blown Away, he says, "looks different. It doesn't look like it's going to be a big slugfest. In some ways, it's funnier. A lot of the fun

Researchers find gene that controls biological clock in mouse

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A gene for the internal clock that sends the body wake-up alarms in the morning and brings on slumber at night has been located in laboratory mice, a finding that may prompt a similar discovery in humans.

Joseph Takahashi of Northwestern University, senior author of a report published in the journal *Science*, said the research could lead to drugs that will

overcome jet lag, keep night workers from falling asleep on the job and solve narcolepsy, one of the most common sleep disorders.

The biological clock, located in the brain, controls the daily, or circadian, rhythms of life. It somehow triggers changes that invigorate or slow down the body on a 24-hour cycle. It is the circadian rhythm that is disrupted by rapid flight across time zones, causing jet lag.

Circadian rhythms have long fascinated and con-

founded scientists, prompting research into sleep and into how humans adapt to daylight and darkness. But the work by Dr. Takahashi and his group is the first to locate in a mammal the gene that plays a key role in the cycle.

Dr. Takahashi said researchers in his lab located the gene by finding and then breeding mice that lacked the gene.

"We isolated the mutation which affects the circadian clock in the mouse," he said. "With this muta-

tion, the mouse loses its circadian rhythm completely."

The gene was located by an ingenious system that measured the circadian rhythm of 300 mice automatically at the same time.

Dr. Takahashi said that exercise wheels in each of the mouse cages were connected to a computer. When each mouse awoke and started exercising, a switch was thrown that recorded the time.

"They all started within a minute or two of the same

time each day," he said. Except for one mouse.

Researchers discovered that this rodent started an hour later each day. When it was bred, some of its descendants also started late.

By comparing the genetic pattern of the prompt and the tardy mice, Dr. Takahashi said they located a single mutation in an area of Chromosome 5.

More mice were bred until there were lab animals that contained double mutations in the Chromo-

some 5, which means they had no normal gene for the circadian rhythm.

These mice started their exercise four hours later each day, evidence of a body clock ticking completely different than that of the average mouse. Eventually, said Dr. Takahashi, the mice with double mutations lost all regularity in their daily activity. Their biological clock was broken.

Dr. Takahashi said it is fortunate that the clock

gene is on mouse Chromosome 5. Other researchers already have established that this chromosome carries many of the functions found on human Chromosome 4. He said researchers now can narrow the search for the human body clock gene.

Once the gene is isolated and cloned, Dr. Takahashi said researchers will be able to identify the protein that it produces. This protein could then, perhaps, be used to create a drug that would permit control of the

circadian rhythm in humans.

"This could be very important," said Dr. Jean-Paul Spire, professor of neurology at the University of Chicago and head of a sleep disorder treatment service. "This is the clock that makes us all tick and it was only located about 10 years ago."

Science, which published the Takahashi study, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

By Andrew Kelly
Reuter

THE HAGUE — Tuberculosis causes more deaths than AIDS, malaria and cholera combined, but the United Nations' health agency says the world has largely ignored it.

Despite a cheap and effective cure, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says years of neglect have allowed the disease to spread and potent drug-resistant strains to emerge.

"For almost everybody it's been a low priority," Richard Bumgarner, deputy manager of the WHO Tuberculosis Programme, told Reuters during a visit to the Hague.

Rich countries have overlooked tuberculosis in their

WHO sounds alarm over new threat from an old killer

foreign aid programmes and poor countries have also placed it near the bottom of their agenda. Tuberculosis control projects have consequently suffered from a shortage of money.

"We have been living hand to mouth, begging for the odd \$100,000 or \$200,000 here and there," Dr. Bumgarner said.

The WHO has called on rich countries to provide an extra \$100 million a year to help poor countries fight the disease, saying this would save 12 million lives over the next 10 years.

If its plan is not adopted,

the agency says, the annual number of tuberculosis deaths will rise to four million a year now.

In 1990 aid donors spent \$185 million on fighting AIDS in developing countries but only \$16 million on tuberculosis, though it killed five times as many people.

The World Bank has concluded that tuberculosis control is one of the most cost-effective forms of treatment, costing as little as \$0.90 for each year added to a patient's life.

"If you want value for money, tuberculosis is a fabulous disease to invest in," Dr. Bumgarner said.

Unfortunately many doctors and public health officials have viewed it as unworthy of their attention.

"Let's face it, it's not very sexy to deal with an old infectious disease like TB... It's old, it's dirty, it affects poor people who don't vote," Dr. Bumgarner said.

The WHO itself was partly to blame for failing to convey clearly the costs and benefits of tuberculosis control, he said.

That has changed. The

agency is promoting a six-month course of treatment which can cure a patient and prevent him or her from infecting others for as little as \$13.

Well-run programmes have already enabled countries such as China, Chile, Honduras, Malawi, Malaysia and Tanzania to achieve cure rates of 80 per cent or more.

Patients must be carefully supervised because failure to complete the treatment can give rise to drug-resistant strains of the disease which can be costly or impossible to cure.

Drug resistance develops when a patient does not finish the course of medicine, allowing some germs to survive and multiply after they have acquired resistance to the drugs.

"Health workers must directly observe the swallowing of those drugs, record it in a special ledger and supervise and analyse that ledger," Dr. Bumgarner said.

Whenever a correctly administered programme is put into place it quickly brings tangible results.

"Most medical programmes are evaluated in terms of the resources they use, but in TB we count the number of people cured, not the number of pills given," Dr. Bumgarner said.

Science 'hugely ignorant' about TB

By John Marshall
Reuters

PRAGUE — Scientists remain baffled by the global re-emergence of tuberculosis (TB), especially by drug-resistant strains of the deadly disease, a top U.S. researcher said.

"The state of scientific ignorance in the pathoge-

sis of TB is enormous. We really don't know how the organism enters the body, attaches to tissue cells, invades, survives, grows, spreads," Dr. Barry Bloom told the opening session of the sixth international congress for infectious diseases. "Fundamentally we don't have any idea why tuberculosis kills cells, causes dis-

ease, kills people, nor has any single gene been identified that is known to be responsible for the virulence of this organism."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a worldwide health emergency on tuberculosis, the airborne disease thought to have been virtually eradicated less than a

decade ago.

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countries to provide an extra \$100 million a year to help poor countries fight the disease, saying this would save 12 million lives over the next 10 years.

In 1990 rich countries spent \$185 million on fighting AIDS in developing countries but only \$16 million on tuberculosis though it killed five times as many people.

Dr. Bloom, who is in charge of tuberculosis research at the Albert Einstein Clinic in New York, told hundreds of his colleagues that poverty has been the most pervasive factor in the re-emergence of TB, regardless of the overall wealth of a country.

While TB is mostly curable — over 90 per cent of cases recover after full treatment — some cases have spawned dangerous drug-resistant strains of the disease.

Dr. Bloom's clinic studied 224 tuberculosis patients at a hospital in Harlem in New York, where only 11 per cent of patients completed full treatment.

Of the patients studied,

32 died directly from tuberculosis.

"We have now analysed

those who have the more

interesting transmitted

strains... almost 50 per cent

are resistant to one drug and 24 per cent are multi-drug resistant," Dr. Bloom said.

He said his clinic was

studying a diagnostic pro-

cess which would allow de-

tection of drug-resistant

strains within two to three

days, but the method is still

being studied.

told the conference.

"So this is much different than the patterns that one might have expected to see."

Dr. Bloom said that only

five per cent of the TB cases studied were homeless and neither was alcohol or intravenous drug use statistically a factor.

But he said that an over-

whelming number of cases

came in clusters from run-

down neighbourhoods.

"This relates to the social milieu of poor ventilation, poor nutrition, crowding, and most of all poverty," he said.

Dr. Bloom said that data from the U.S. Centres for Disease Control showed that it took an average of 11 weeks from the collection of the specimen to identify and isolate whether the patient was resistant or susceptible.

"We want to develop an inexpensive, low technology, diagnostic test, which would more quickly identify the presence of drug-resistant organisms," Dr. Bloom said.

He said his clinic was

studying a diagnostic pro-

cess which would allow de-

tection of drug-resistant

strains within two to three

days, but the method is still

being studied.

Bangladesh troops fight malaria as well as insurgency

By Nadeem Qadir
Agence France Presse

KHAGRACHARI, Bangladesh — Hundreds of Bangladeshi troops and officials stationed in this rugged frontier hill district fight a dual battle: Against armed insurgents and malaria.

"I was struck with malaria 21 times during the past two-and-a-half years," said policeman Firoze, posted in this southeastern Buddhist tribal district. He said the bouts with malaria have weakened him, and he now suffers from headaches and giddiness.

A doctor in a local army medical corps (AMC) unit said more than 1,000 of the troops in the area are infected by the disease every year, in addition to thousands of police and other officials in the district.

"No one is spared here from malaria and 10 to 12 per cent of the attacked die," he said, adding he could not give centralised figures of dead or stricken victims.

Tribesman Prew Chakma of a nearby village also suffers from the disease and said he was taking herbal medicine.

"Sometimes we go to the government hospital but generations have survived with herbal medicines," he said.

Nasir Ahmad Chowdhury, a doctor at a government hospital here, said there were a large number of malaria cases in the region comprising Khagrachari and neighbouring Rangamati and Bandarban districts, bordering India and Burma.

"Tribal (people) treat themselves with indigenous medicines because they are largely uneducated and do not trust modern medicines," he said.

Debaranjan Chakma, a local tribesman, said he had lost two of his children due to "high fever," and that currently a third one was suffering.

"I don't know what (disease) it is, but (we are)

giving the child herbal medicine... maybe we will

go to hospital if she becomes too sick," he said of his young daughter.

The World Health Organisation says malaria has returned with a vengeance around the world after a mass eradication campaign in the late 1970s.

According to Health Ministry estimates quoted in 1987, malaria had returned to 49 of Bangladesh's 64 districts. It killed 155 people in 1986.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ANY WHICH WAY
By Matthew Higgins

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 5-6, 1994

Palestinians see Cairo accord with scepticism

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinians are suspicious of agreements on paper and are anticipating the actual implementation of the historic accord on self-rule of Gaza and Jericho, according to Saleh Ra'fat, a member of the Palestine Central Council.

"Palestinians are suspicious of the new Cairo agreement, especially with the Israeli occupation forces' closure of the city of Jerusalem and the military constraints Israel is exercising on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Mr. Ra'fat told the Jordan Times on Wednesday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday signed the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in Cairo. The agreement, which was under negotiation for the last six months, will clear the way for the first Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian areas it seized in the 1967 war.

Palestinians are divided in the way they look at the peace talks. There are those who fully support the talks and back the negotiators. Then there are those who back the principle of peace but want a tougher stand in negotiations. And last there are those who oppose the principle of making peace with Israel altogether.

Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, also a member of the Palestine Central Council, told the Jordan Times that he saw the signing of the Cairo agreement as a coup which is bound to shock and confuse the Palestinians no matter how prepared they thought they were. "While Nafeh Hawatmeh says that Wednesday was a black day in the history of the Palestinian people, I consider it to be a milestone that marks the beginning of the ushering in of an independent Palestinian entity," said Mr. Quba'a.

Nafeh Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

(PFLP) lead a 10-faction coalition that includes the Islamic Resistance Movement. Hamas. The coalition operates from Damascus, and has followers in the occupied territories.

Mr. Quha'a urged Mr. Hawatmeh to show courage and stop talking about nothing but the "humiliating submission of the PLO."

Mr. Ra'fat, a member of the DFLP faction that supports the peace talks accused Palestinian negotiators of submitting 10 humiliating conditions in the Cairo agreement which, he said, contradicts the clauses of the Oslo agreement. He said that while the Oslo agreement gave Israel the right to secure order only within Israeli settlements, the Cairo agreement stipulates that Israeli forces will continue to operate in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, also a member of the Palestine Central Council, urged all Palestinians to join forces to make successful the implementation of the Cairo agreement, which, he said, fell short of addressing major issues. Mr. Abu Ayyash added that one cannot but fear the consequences of the autonomy accord as it failed to attain major achievements.

"While we are signing peace agreements, Israelis are establishing more settlements in different areas of the occupied territories, and that is very worrying," Mr. Abu Ayyash said.

Mr. Ra'fat, however, said that he hoped for the establishment of a "real" Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to reclaim Jerusalem and end all forms of Israeli occupation.

Mr. Quba'a criticised the Palestinian negotiators for what he called their failure to coordinate with the Jordanian government where the peace talks are concerned.

"Palestinians and Jordanians are one body, and this lack of coordination will reflect negatively on the future Palestinian entity if the situation is not corrected," Mr. Quba'a said.

King: Lack of coordination poses danger

(Continued from page 1)

process would have any effects on the regional economic situation in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli economic accord signed in Paris, King Hussein said Jordan was demanding a balanced deal in the economic process, especially concerning the question of boycott of trade between Israel and the Arabs.

"This is not a mere question of Arab countries boycotting Israel but of dealing with Israel's practice of imposing protectionist measures against us and against the Palestinians and the other Arab countries," the King said.

"In my view these and other relevant questions have to be settled in a sound and fair manner to pave the ground for sound economic and trade dealings in the future," King Hussein said.

"On the other hand, when peace is achieved, we would

have the chance to tackle urgent questions that would transform our lives for the better," he said. He noted that there are such pressing issues like the water rights because "we want to have our full share of the region's water resources, especially in the light of indications that the available water resources in Jordan would not be sufficient for domestic consumption in the coming few years and there is need for alternative resources."

"We have to implement the items listed in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda to ensure the return of occupied Jordanian land and when these lands have been returned to Jordan's sovereignty discussion can start on what can be done in the Jordan Valley, starting with the northern areas and the water resources," he said.

Asked to sum up the Jordanian stand vis-a-vis the peace process in the light of Amman's refusal to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, the

King said that it would be strange and ridiculous to ask Jordan to sign a peace treaty and then sit down to negotiate the details.

"If this is what is proposed to us, it would mean capitulation and not real peace-making," the King said.

"We insist that all issues along all tracks be settled first so that peace would crown satisfactory solutions," King Hussein stressed. "Peace cannot be achieved without tackling all the outstanding issues," he said.

On progress along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process following Syria's declared acceptance of the concept of a peace treaty with Israel, King Hussein said though Jordan is concentrating on bilateral issues with Israel it realises that progress along the other tracks is of concern to the Kingdom as well, especially the question of water resources.

"Such questions require

further discussions as they affect the lives of all people in the region and then we can ask the world to come and help us in the process of formulating a peaceful future," the King said.

"In my view, the Assad-Clinton meeting was useful and important because it created mutual confidence as I have felt in my meeting with the American president and the Syrian leader," the King said.

"This confidence encourages us and gives us hope that mistakes are heading in the right direction."

"It should be noted here that the U.S. president and his administration face continued pressure and there are parties that try to impose their own stands in favour of Israel, especially in this critical stage when a durable and just peace is being sought. But what is more disturbing at this stage is to see the Arab side in total disarray," the King added.

Answering a question about the status of Jerusalem, the King said: "We are in contact

with the U.S. administration demanding a clear position with regard to U.N. Security Council Resolution 904 and Washington's stand. We are hoping that the American stand vis-a-vis the holy city has not changed."

"Once we had gathered all the details, we would relay them to the Arab countries where Abu Nidal and his group operate and sound out their views concerning such operations which have served the enemies of the Arab World and damaged Arab interests," he said.

Asked on how he viewed the future of Arab solidarity and possible unity, the King said that he was not in a position to answer this question in an absolute sense, noting that "no one under the present circumstances can describe the prevailing situation as solidarity or unity among Arabs or even coordination or cooperation even at the lowest minimum level."

He said Jordan was nevertheless maintaining wide contacts seeking joint Arab action.

House session breaks up after argument

(Continued from page 1)

Majesty King Hussein's recent speech during the celebrations of the completion of the restoration work on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Mr. Kabariti said the Jordanian position is in harmony with that of the Jordanian people and the Kingdom's participation in the peace talks was part of a national strategy

stemming from the fact that "we have to negotiate so that we will be players and not a playing field."

Deputy Toujan Faisal attributed the failure of the House to adopt the statement condemning the Cairo accord to the unwillingness of some deputies to "anger the government, the United States, Egypt or even (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin," but other deputies saw in Ms. Faisal's statement a distortion of the stand of the House.

Most of the 20 deputies who spoke during the meeting were opposed to the agreement and no one has the right to question the position of other lawmakers, said Deputy Abdul

Rauf Al Rawabdeh in reaction to Ms. Faisal's statement.

Parliamentary sources said most of the deputies walked out of the meeting in protest against giving the floor to IAF deputies and other opponents of the agreement while others were excluded.

While some lawmakers said the House failed to adopt the statement due "to outside pressure," others said that the self-rule agreement is a Palestinian affair signed by the representative of the Palestinian people and hence their refusal to sign the statement condemning it.

Mr. Kabariti stressed the urgency of formulating a national strategy to counter the negative economic impact of the agreement on Jordan, reiterating rejection of partial deals that could threaten "our economy and our national unity."

Other lawmakers said the "PLO has burnt its bridges with the Palestinians of the diaspora and become subordinate to Israel" by signing

the self-rule accord. They echoed Mr. Kabariti in saying lawmakers should focus on the impact of the accord on the interests of Jordan.

The House, which cannot discuss the issue during its current sessions because it is constitutionally restricted to the items on the agenda during extraordinary sessions, will hold another meeting today to further discuss whether it will adopt the statement condemning the accord.

Islamic Action Front deputies told the Jordan Times they would try to get the signatures of more than half the members of the legislature on the statement so that it becomes an official document of the House.

But parliamentary sources expected the IAF to fail in its bid because most of the deputies who walked out on Wednesday's meeting have taken a decision not to show up for Thursday's meeting "in continuation of their protest against not being given the chance to speak."

Negotiations on screen, Israel-PLO style

(Continued from page 1)

negotiation took place during the ceremony.

"Nowadays you can watch how birth is being given on television," he joked.

"We had a dream before we had a map. Now we have a map and a dream together," Mr. Peres joked.

Before the dispute, a smiling Arafat was the first to sign the papers in three thick black books and a stack of files, using his own pen instead of one that was offered him. He then shook hands with Mr. Rabin:

But then confusion arose as Mr. Rabin, a former general, looked over the papers. He signed the three main sets, but stopped when presented the blue-covered document that Mr. Arafat had not signed.

Egyptian and Israeli media said the confusion was over a map of Jericho, whose exact size is still being negotiated. Mr. Arafat apparently did not sign it, and then Mr. Rabin also refused.

After the furore, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres then explained to the audience that some last-minute

crimes, and we can only wait for the results of the investigations in Lebanon and appreciate efforts by Syria and Lebanon in this concern," the King said.

"Once we had gathered all the details, we would relay them to the Arab countries where Abu Nidal and his group operate and sound out their views concerning such operations which have served the enemies of the Arab World and damaged Arab interests," he said.

Asked on how he viewed the future of Arab solidarity and possible unity, the King said that he was not in a position to answer this question in an absolute sense, noting that "no one under the present circumstances can describe the prevailing situation as solidarity or unity among Arabs or even coordination or cooperation even at the lowest minimum level."

He said Jordan was nevertheless maintaining wide contacts seeking joint Arab action.

The Israeli delegation said it almost walked out of the signing when Mr. Arafat refused to initial the map.

"It was embarrassing. We would have walked out if he had not signed," Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni said after the two sides overcame the hitch. Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said Mr. Arafat refused to sign because he had not received a paper summarising three points not resolved at the final session of negotiations that ended only hours before the signing.

"After it was said he would receive the letter, he signed the map," Mr. Sarid said.

Eight Israeli, Palestinian, U.S. and Russian officials took part in the complicated mine dance, gesturing, bickering and cajoling.

"From the beginning to the end it was drama, from one drama to another. I knew there would be lots of drama but I did not foresee the drama that we saw on stage today," Norwegian mediator Terje Larsen told Reuters.

Ten years later...
Apple introduces PowerMacintosh

After all,
what's life
without
RISC?

Ten years ago in 1984, we gave you the power to stand on your own two feet. Now spread your wings.

Because life will never be the same again. You will dare. And win. You will explore new ideas. And master them. You will attempt. And succeed. You will thrive on RISC.

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It will be fast. It will be faster. It will be the fastest.

It is a computer. It is an upgrade. It is a phenomenon.

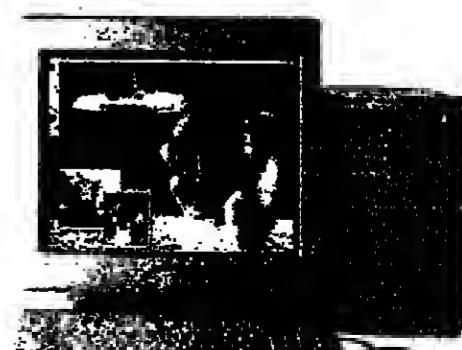
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It is compatible.
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Turkish annual inflation hits triple digits

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish inflation, fuelled by state sector price rises and a tumbling lira, roared into three digits for the first time in more than a decade, the State Institute of Statistics announced Wednesday.

The annual inflation figure has not exceeded 100 per cent in Turkey since 1980 when the military staged a coup aimed at stopping political violence and economic chaos.

Consumer price inflation jumped 24.7 per cent in April, against 5.2 per cent in March. That pushed the 12-month rate to 107.4 per cent from 74.3 per cent the previous month.

Wholesale prices soared 32.8 per cent, sending the year-on-year wholesale inflation rate to 125.3 per cent.

The surge in inflation followed sharp increases in the prices of fuel and other public sector goods announced on April 5 as part of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's austerity package.

Ms. Ciller, struggling with an economic crisis that erupted in mid-January when the lira was devalued 12 per cent, had held back price rises until after nationwide local elections on March 27.

Economists said inflation could not be curbed until Ms. Ciller's coalition government managed to restore business confidence and find ways to absorb excess money in the markets.

"The important thing is to establish confidence in the government's policies," Ozer

Ertuna, economics professor at Bosphorus University and former chief adviser to Ms. Ciller, told Reuters, "Bankruptcies will be seen if it cannot be provided."

The economy is heading into recession after last year's consumer-driven 7.3 per cent growth.

Three small banks and eight brokerage houses failed last month and some companies in the telecommunications, car and textile industries have suspended production.

Ms. Ciller's austerity package was designed to curb yawning public deficits, seen as the main pump for inflation. She has promised sharply lower inflation in the second half of 1994.

"I don't expect monthly consumer price inflation to fall below 10 per cent in May," a senior state economist said. "But it may come down in June if public sector prices remain constant."

Economists said inflation could decline in June and July, the season when fruit and vegetable prices usually fall.

Turkish state companies raised their prices by up to 110 per cent in April and private sector prices followed suit.

Ms. Ciller said prices would remain stable for the rest of the year, but some economic bureaucrats challenge her view.

Public sector companies are under strong pressure for further price hikes after the high depreciation of the lira against the dollar, one government official said. A further

rise in the price of petrol was possible, he added.

The lira has lost 58 per cent of its dollar value this year.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team began talks in Ankara on Monday aimed at agreeing terms for IMF standby credits. An IMF accord would enable Turkey to return to foreign capital markets.

The IMF mission is likely to ask Turkey to get its budget deficits under control and stop printing money to finance them.

The treasury's heavy reliance on central bank resources dragged financial markets into chaos in January. It has already taken advances worth more than 90 per cent of its annual limit from the central bank this year.

Three-fifths of Japanese firms overstaffed — poll

TOKYO (R) — Three-fifths of major Japanese companies think they are overstaffed, according to a survey reported Wednesday by Kyodo News Agency.

The survey was carried out on behalf of the government's National Personnel Authority. It quoted the 1,052 companies registered on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and got replies from 34.6 per cent.

Of those, 16.8 per cent said they were overstaffed, compared with 7.5 per cent in a survey last year. Another 41.2 per cent said they were a little overstaffed, making a total of 50 per cent who thought they were overstaffed to some extent.

Large companies thought they were more overstaffed than small ones and manufacturers more than other types of industry, the agency said.

Of the companies that had cut staff, 77.9 per cent had reduced the number of new graduates they employed, 70.6 per cent had sent staff to work for affiliates and 5.5 per cent mainly manufacturers — had asked workers to take early retirement.

According to another poll carried by the Nihon Keizai Shinbun, more than 90 per cent of Japanese politicians and business believe that the nation's policy-making is still led by elite bureaucrats.

According to the daily, 94 per cent of surveyed lawmakers and 97.3 of business said they believed bureaucrats controlled government policy decisions.

Australia announces \$4.6b jobs programme

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating announced Wednesday a 6.5 billion Australian dollars (\$4.6 billion) programme to help get the country's 900,000 unemployed back to work.

Mr. Keating described the four-year working nation package as the "most profound reform of Australia's labour market and social security provision since World War II."

The package, announced just six days before the budget, aims to reduce unemployment to five per cent by the end of the decade, compared with current levels of more than 10 per cent.

It will cost a net 1.03 billion dollars in the 12 months to June 30, 1995, 1.73 billion dollars in 1995-96, 1.89 billion dollars in 1996-97 and 1.87 billion dollars in 1997-98.

Australia's economy grew at about four per cent in 1993 and job numbers have grown by 230,000 since April 1993, but official data shows the adjusted unemployment rate in March stood at 10.3 per cent, representing 902,700 people.

The package was a fulfillment of Mr. Keating's promise to help the unemployed when he won a general election in March, 1993. He said although the package was not the end of the fight against unemployment, "we can say that the battle has been joined."

The bulk of the cost — a net 3.4 billion dollars — would finance an ambitious plan to guarantee a job to all people unemployed for more than 18 months. In March, 351,000 people had been without a job for more than 12 months.

All those unemployed for more than 18 months would be offered employment, but if they failed to take up reasonable offers, assistance would be stopped.

Employers would be offered incentives to take on the long-term unemployed with 200-dollar-a-week subsidies for the first 13 weeks, 100 dollars a week for the next 26 weeks and a 500 dollar bonus for retaining workers after a year.

Prices of coffee on the rise as investment funds buy

LONDON (R) — Coffee is likely to continue its meteoric rise, traders said Wednesday, as investment-fund and trade buying took the market to fresh five-year highs.

Robust coffee for July delivery hit \$1,699 a tonne, up \$57 from Tuesday's close, and its highest level since June 1989 when the market peaked at over \$1,900.

Prices are 16 per cent up this year alone and have jumped over 47 per cent since the beginning of February.

"In the near term there is only one way for this market to go and that is upwards," one trader said.

"The lack of fresh coffee from origin combined with fund-buying and some light offtake and roaster price-fix covering ... it's an explosive little cocktail," another said.

Traders said price targets now tended to be round numbers, initially, \$1,700 on July, with some talking about

Roasters have been forced to scramble for scarce deliveries as a result of lower world barbeats and a producer plan to withhold part of their exports from international markets.

One sign of the tightness of export-quality supplies is the large number of open positions on the May contract, which indicates holders are unable to get coffee to cover the futures contract.

Option positions recently taken in the market have also accelerated the rise as issuers have had to take on extra cover as prices have neared the option strikes.

Options allow the buyer for a relatively small fee the right to buy or sell a futures contract. There is no obligation, however, to complete the contract.

Speculators have been attracted to coffee by the tightening supply situation but traders and analysts say in the longer term the balance of

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day for you to be up early and to put your most imaginative course of action into execution and get excellent results. Show others that you have mutual interest and that you are really devoted.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact those who can assist you in gaining your fondest aims. Sum up the day's accomplishments in the evening to see what has been done.

TAURUS: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to work well with others who have the same mutual interests. Be clever in the handling of money matters you are given.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go after whatever is of greatest interest to you now and get fine results by being persistent. Be active and happy in your endeavours.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go after your personal aims in a positive fashion and get excellent results. Work at a measured pace and you will get much done.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have to cultivate your friendships more if they are to grow and be lasting. Be sure to exercise caution in motion wherever you are going.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good time to improve conditions at home. Following the advice of a financial expert can be beneficial to you at this time.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sigmund Freud and Orson Welles share this birthday which is well aspected by Mercury trining Neptune making it possible for you to come to a finer accord with close associates and government workers.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Listen carefully to ideas of associates and know what they have in mind. Curb your temper when dealing with outsiders on any subject.

TAURUS: (October 23 to November 21) Go to a financial expert and solve a money problem that has been troubling you. Show others that you have wisdom to handle any situation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time from regular routines and make plans that could give you added income in the future. Be wise in all financial matters.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use more caution in handling work today, since carelessness could cause you losses. Take needed health treatments to stay fit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure business matters are handled well in the morning and then seek relaxation later in the day with the ones you love.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new enterprise should be studied well before making definite plans. Come to a better understanding with loved ones who are around.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Herb Arnold and Mike Arpin

IMPER

THRAW

TINISS

GOMURE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: **OF**

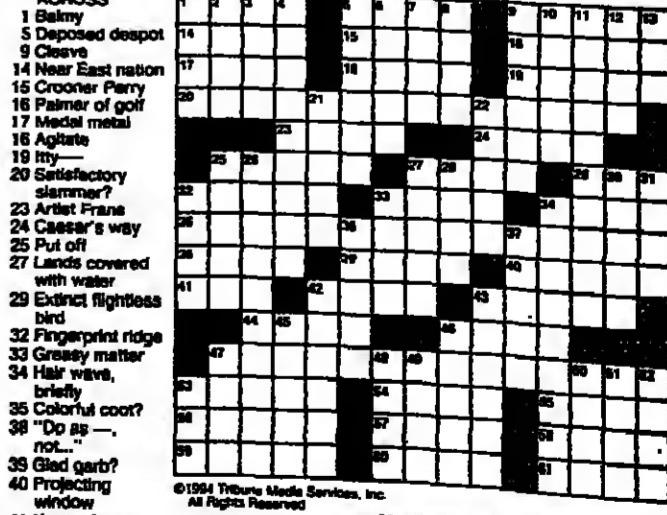
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: **SKIMP AGATE FASTEN MORBID**

Answer: How the yacht race left the nervous skipper — **TIED UP IN KNOTS**

THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DIGGIER FETTO SPALD

MOONIE PIGCA TAKED

WILTED ACRES

WILTY TAKED

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 5-6, 1994 7

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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED ID	PRV. HOLDING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABRAHAMS	1218	192,000	193,000
ABRAHAM BANK	1221	1,482	1,480
ABRAHAM JORDAN	1222	1,480	1,480
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1223	38,485	2,250
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1224	30,127	3,145
THE MOUSSEY BANK	1225	4,471	3,200
JORDAN COLD STORES	1226	164,267	3,240
ABRAHAMS INVESTMENT BANK	1227	136,741	2,130
ABRAHAMS TRADING BANK	1228	4,471	3,200
BUSINESS BANK	1229	96,912	4,263
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1230	4,455	4,250
ABRAHAMS HOLDING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1231	5,123	4,250
ABRAHAMS HOTELS	1232	169,201	1,962
ABRAHAMS HOLDING & INVESTMENT BANK	1233	4,471	3,200
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS	1234	23,658	2,110
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	1235	7,413	3,120
JOHN LEE & COMPANY INSURANCE	1236	10,211	4,250
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE	1237	1,930	3,140
CONSTANTIN ELECTRIC POWER	1238	4,455	4,250
JORDAN PETROLEUM MOBILES	1239	5,123	4,250
JORDAN PETROLEUM & GAS	1240	27,759	2,602
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1241	9,119	4,250
PETRA ESTATEPLAZA EQUIPMENT LEASING	1242	3,157	1,545
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1243	1,609	1,710
ABRAHAMS INDUSTRIES & MAINTENANCE	1244	1,728	1,120
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION	1245	1,609	1,100
JORDAN PRESS PUBLISHING & DISTRIBUTION	1246	7,555	10,100
ABRAHAMS HOTELS & CONFERENCES HOTELS	1247	34,783	1,170
ABRAHAMS HOTELS & EDUCATION	1248	437,952	2,943
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1249	143	2,800
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1250	1,609	1,100
MOLLEN INDUSTRIES	1251	1,609	1,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM & AGRICULTURAL	1252	6,176	6,150
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1253	521	6,150
JORDAN PETROLEUM HOLDING	1254	13,257	4,000
ABRAHAMS CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	1255	3,428	4,000
SPINNING & WEAVING	1256	5,123	2,750
JORDAN CLASS INDUSTRIES	1257	5,123	2,750
JORDAN DATA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1258	231,279	10,400
ABRAHAMS INDUSTRIES	1259	10,650	10,350
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	1260	46,645	1,000
JORDAN PETROLEUM & TRADING	1261	1,554	2,800
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	1262	13,152	4,500
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1263	31,017	2,815
JORDAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1264	5,123	2,750
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1265	5,123	2,750
JORDAN PETROLEUM & TRADE	1266	5,123	2,750
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	1267	52,552	7,030
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1268	13,152	3,510
JORDAN EGYPT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PRO.	1269	1,048	2,320
DAKAR INVESTMENT	1270	5,123	2,750
UNIVERSAL SOFTENERS INDUSTRIES	1271	1,768	1,750
Grand Total	1272	2,764,493	
No. of Traded Shares in Parallel Market	1273	214,685	
Traded Volume in the Parallel Market	1274	50,972	

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		Date: 4/5/1994			
Currency	New York £US \$C	Singapore £US \$C			
Sterling Pound	5.15/5.94	5.15/5.94			
Deutsche Mark	1,6370	1,6361			
Swiss Franc	1,3958	1,3953**			
French Franc	5,6108	5,6251**			
Japanese Yen	101.00	100.95			
European Currency Unit	1,1768	1,1735**			
USD per SGD	1.8000	1.8000			
European Central Bank Rate	1.1735	1.1735			
Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 x Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent					
Previous Metals	Date: 4/5/1994				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Tin
Gold	374.85	7.40	Silver	5.70	0.120
* 24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 4/5/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6150	0.6170			
Sterling Pound	1.0501	1.0534			
Deutsche Mark	0.4146	0.4167			
Swiss Franc	0.3473	0.3503			
French Franc	6.1130	6.1246			
Japanese Yen	0.6861	0.6915			
Dutch Guilder	0.5781	0.5801			
Swedish Krona	*****	*****			
Italian Lira	0.0440	0.0441			
Belgian Franc	445.0000	445.0000			
Fr. 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 4/5/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400			
Lebanese Lira	0.040300	0.041745			
Saudi Riyal	0.18505	0.18700			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3500	2.3700			
Qatari Riyal	0.1667	0.1696			
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2100			
Omani Riyal	1.7670	1.8010			
UAE Dirham	0.1867	0.1866			
Greek Drachma	0.2655	0.3075			
Cypriot Pound	1.7575	1.7475			
Pr. 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1,3860/70	Canadian dollar
	1,6486/96	Deutschmarks
	1,8506/16	Dutch guilders
	1,4036/46	Swiss francs
	33,92/96	Belgian francs
	5,6460/10	French francs
	1590,0/1,5	Italian lire
	101,30/40	Japanese yen
	7,6200/00	Swedish crowns
	7,1550/00	Norwegian crowns
	6,4500/50	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1,5062/72	
One ounce of gold	\$374,40/374,80	

African airlines expect long haul to recovery

ABIDJAN (R) — Officials of the 34-member African Airlines Association (AFRAA) ended a two-day conference in Ivory Coast Tuesday, with speakers saying the region's carriers faced a long haul to recovery.

Outgoing AFRAA President Yves Roland-Billecart, chairman of debt-laden multinational Air Afrique, said global problems of over-capacity, economic recession and lack of common price strategies were compounded in Africa by January's 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc and tighter entry restrictions on Africans seeking to visit the European Union.

"

AFRAA Secretary-General Mohammad Ahmad, former head of Ethiopian Airlines, said the reluctance of African governments to liberalise air transport rules could leave the continent behind other regions in the fight for business. "The inability of Africa to face up to worldwide regulatory changes aimed at establishing a new order of international air transport and our failure to erect an appropriate regulatory framework will, if we do not beware, continue to widen the gap between Africa and the rest of the world," he said.

The AFRAA meeting, the organisation's 26th annual general assembly, elected Egyptian Chairman Mohammad Madan Rayan as its president for a year and agreed the next assembly would be held in Egypt next May.

The most obvious characteristic of Africa's attitude, apart from its defensive stance, is its inactivity on aviation policy compared to the activism of governments in other regions who seek to create conditions likely to ensure pro-

tection of their aviation interests," he added.

Mr. Ahmad said African airlines carried 25 per cent more passengers in 1992 than the year before but freight tonnage declined 23 per cent over the same period.

Financial performance was unknown because fewer than 40 per cent of members had so far submitted their 1992 figures, he said.

Ivorian Transport Minister Ezan Akele said strategies worked out at a 1988 meeting of African ministers had not been implemented.

He cited the devaluation of the CFA franc and tighter entry restrictions on Africans seeking to visit the European Union.

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"The inability of Africa to face up to worldwide regulatory changes aimed at establishing a new order of international air transport and our failure to erect an appropriate regulatory framework will, if we do not beware, continue to widen the gap between Africa and the rest of the world," he said.

The decision to appoint a new regional agency coincides with a new phase of market orientation adopted by Mercedes-Benz.

Horizon Advertising is one of the leading regional agencies with offices in Athens, Paris, Jeddah, Dubai, Kuwait, Cairo, Beirut and Amman.

Mercedes appoints Horizon Advertising

AMMAN — Horizon — the Middle East Advertising & Communication Network — has been appointed to handle the communication activities for Mercedes-Benz in the Middle East after winning a recent pitch in Dubai. The decision was taken after a series of presentations were received by a top-level delegation from Mercedes-Benz, Germany.

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Private sector to play bigger role in new Saudi development plan

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia aims in its new five-year development plan to steer its oil-dependent economy towards growth based on a bigger private sector role, a leading economist said.

Mr. Azzam said targeted growth rates of the current and new development plans "are to be achieved mainly through increased private sector investment."

He said total investment needed "for manufacturing, excluding petroleum refining, over the current plan is estimated at 44 billion Saudi riyals (\$11.7 billion), of which the private sector is expected to provide 28.5 billion riyals (\$7.6 billion), with the rest coming from the government and companies it owns."

Mr. Azzam said annual rates of growth in the government sector dropped to three per cent in 1993 from 19.5 per cent in 1990-91 during the Gulf crisis while nominal growth in the private sector continued at around six per cent in 1992 and 5.1 per cent in 1993.

He said the private sector

published to the bank's latest monthly report and made available to Reuters.

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He said the private sector

reducing its holdings in companies whose shares are listed on the stock market, he said.

"Commercially viable public sector establishments, whose assets can be assessed to give estimates of share values, will then follow. These include petrochemical plants, telecommunications and public service companies, Saudi (the

Heavy shelling in Rwandan capital as talks fail

NAIROBI (AFP) — Rwandan rebels and government troops shelled each other's positions Wednesday in Kigali, where U.N. soldiers were wounded as planned peace talks failed to get off the ground in Tanzania.

Rebel and government artillery blasted away in what Red Cross delegate Philippe Gaillard described as "the most violent exchange" since Rwanda's latest ethnic bloodbath began a month ago.

Meanwhile, talks in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha were stalled by the refusal of the rebels, composed mainly of the Tutsi minority, to talk to the Hima-dominated interim government.

The U.N. troops were hurt when the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) bombarded the airport, where the army has installed artillery units that were firing on rebel headquarters in the former parliament building.

Abdul Kabir, executive director of the U.N. Assistance

Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), declined to give the nationality of the soldiers, two of whom were evacuated to the Kenyan capital Nairobi, until their next-of-kin had been informed.

Most of the 270 U.N. soldiers still in Kigali are from Ghana and Bangladesh.

Almost all the 2,500 U.N. soldiers formerly in Rwanda were withdrawn last month after 10 Belgian peacekeepers were killed and the force proved powerless to stem bloodletting.

More than 100,000 people have been butchered since President Juvenal Habyarimana's death in an alleged rocket attack on his plane on April 6 unleashed mass slaughter in front of their eyes," the rebels said in a radio broadcast.

Rebel leaders and ministers from the interim government proclaimed after Mr. Habyarimana's death held separate discussions with U.N. and Tanzanian officials in Arusha.

But face-to-face talks aimed at negotiating a ceasefire were undermined by the rebels' refusal to open a dialogue with the "government of killers" which they do not recognise.

Rwandan Transport Minis-

The United States says it

would help fund it, but no Western countries have offered troops and diplomats were sceptical that the international community would again risk troops in Africa after the Somalia debacle.

The rebels rejected foreign military intervention, saying it was too late to stop genocide.

"It is really insane to hear the U.N. pretending to be willing to send troops when it withdrew UNAMIR at a time when a huge number of Rwandans were being massacred in front of their eyes," the rebels said in a radio broadcast.

Rebel leaders and ministers from the interim government proclaimed after Mr. Habyarimana's death held separate discussions with U.N. and Tanzanian officials in Arusha.

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Dutch begin hunt for new government

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands Wednesday began searching for a viable coalition government after voters completely rewrote the political map in a general election.

The tortuous nature of Dutch consensus politics means it could be months before a new administration takes shape, a factor which prompted bold and sharp losses to drift down Wednesday morning.

As in the intervening period, the ruling centre-left coalition will continue to administer the country, but cannot pass new legislation.

Both parties of the outgoing coalition — Labour and the Christian Democrats — lost heavily in Tuesday's vote, though they remain the two biggest parties in parliament. But Labour edged ahead of the Christian Democrats, becoming the single biggest party and making their leader, Finance Minister Wim Kok, responsible to head the next government.

The Christian Democrats suffered their worst ever general election result and will be forced into opposition for the first time since universal suffrage was introduced in 1917.

China 'going backwards' on human rights

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The human rights situation in China has deteriorated in the past two months, according to a report released here Wednesday by a watchdog group.

The report from U.S.-based Human Rights Watch-Asia comes a month before U.S. President Bill Clinton must determine whether Beijing has made "significant, overall" progress on human rights, enabling Mr. Clinton to renew its privileged trading status.

"If there has been a significant, overall deterioration in the human rights situation in China" since Mr. Clinton set the conditions in a presidential executive order in May last year, Human Rights Watch said.

"Contrary to assessments expressed in recent weeks by

several senior U.S. administration officials, significant progress has been made on virtually none of the seven items specified in the executive order," the report said.

In a report in February, Human Rights Watch said that 1993 was the worst year for human rights in China since mid-1990 and the aftermath of the Tiananmen crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

"Since the report was issued, the human rights situation in China has deteriorated further."

It cited the rounding up and imprisonment of religious leaders, imprisonment of "peaceful advocates of Tibetan independence" and a clampdown on the arts.

The only concession of real significance was the release last

month of leading dissident Wang Jiajun, who has been allowed to come to the United States for medical treatment.

"For his release to be significant, however, it will have to be followed by releases of other prisoners."

China showed no sign of yielding Wednesday to President Clinton's warning that it risked losing its most favoured nation (MFN) trade status with the United States if further improvements are not made in human rights.

The latest spate in the long-running MFN saga coincided with angry Chinese denunciations of U.S. sales of military equipment to rival Taiwan and Washington's threat to retaliate over violations of U.S. patents and copyrights in China.

Azerbaijan signs NATO partnership for peace'

BRUSSELS (R) — Azerbaijan signed NATO's "partnership for peace" Wednesday and the former Soviet republic said it dropped the scheme for closer military links with the West that would help end its six-year conflict with Armenia.

"We... hope that our participation in the NATO programme... will make it possible to achieve the soonest peaceful and just settlement," President Heydar Aliyev said at the signing ceremony at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

"Authority of the NATO can be a weighty factor for ending this murderous war." The partnership plan provides for joint training and exercises in fields such as peacekeeping but provides no security guarantees or offers of NATO membership.

Azerbaijan was the 15th country to sign the partnership, which is open to all European states and former Soviet republics. Armenia is also eligible but has not signed so far.

Mr. Aliyev did not say how he expected the partnership to help end the war, or whether he wanted NATO or the United Nations to send peacekeeping forces to his country.

Aliyev blamed Armenia for continuing the conflict over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and for seizing swathes of Azeri territory, which he said Azerbaijan would reclaim.

Thousands have been killed in the longest-running ethnic conflict in the former Soviet Union, which has sparked a major refugee crisis in Azerbaijan. Many ceasefire accords have been ignored and forgotten.

Meanwhile, new Russian-brokered peace talks opened Wednesday to try to end the six-year war over Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, after a similar mediation attempt failed last year.

Representatives from the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments and from the disputed Armenian-majority enclave were on hand for the closed-door meeting, which was scheduled to last one day.

Vladimir Shumeiko, speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament who heads the Russian team, said he hoped the delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh would be recognised as an official party to the conflict.

Baku up to now has refused to recognise any official status for the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, but Mr. Shumeiko Tuesday said Azerbaijan indicated it was ready to change its mind on this point.

ATLANTA (R) — President Bill Clinton said a new "reign of terror" in Haiti has forced him to consider military action if the leaders there refuse to restore democracy.

Mr. Clinton, in a news conference with foreign journalists that was set up by CNN, said the current military rulers "have visited abject misery on their people and they are now once again killing and mutilating innocent civilians and it is wrong, and we have got to do what we can to try and stop it."

He blamed his together stand on those who ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, saying "they have brought this reign of terror and poverty on their people. They can change it tomorrow if they will."

"Our policy is to restore democracy to Haiti and then to work to develop Haiti with a functioning government and a growing economy," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton, accused by critics of a confused policy toward Haiti and its "boat people" refugees, sharpened his rhetoric as the United Nations prepared to consider new sanctions against the military leaders who have refused to restore democracy to the island.

Earlier, during a picture-taking session at the start of a visit with former President Jimmy Carter, Mr. Clinton said the United States had worked "for months now" to get the Hai-

ter Andre Ntagurura told AFP: "We came to Arusha in the hope that we would have direct discussions with the RPF. But the RPF has refused for reasons which are still unknown to us. I hope they will change their position."

"I hope that we will not leave Arusha without signing a ceasefire, which of course must be negotiated between the government and the RPF," he added, reached by telephone.

It was the second time in 10 days that efforts by the United Nations and Tanzania to sponsor talks failed.

U.N. envoy to Rwanda Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh left Arusha for Kampala Wednesday to meet Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, repeatedly accused by the Rwandan government of arming and controlling the rebels.

Rwandan guerrillas, then exiled in Uganda, helped Mr. Museveni overthrow former Ugandan ruler Milton Obote in 1986. The RPF invaded Rwanda from southern Uganda.

da in 1990.

In Kigali, the United Nations met with another setback Tuesday when machete-wielding militiamen and government troops attacked a convoy evacuating civilians from the minority Tutsi tribe out of a government-controlled area.

The rebels draw most of their support from Tutsi, who form about 15 per cent of the population. The army angrily accused the United Nations of renegeing on a promise to evacuate civilians of the Hutu majority from rebel-held areas.

On Tuesday a shell hit the Sainte-Famille Church in central Kigali where thousands of civilians have taken refuge, wounding four people, Mr. Gaillard said. Fifteen civilians were killed and another 150 wounded when two mortar shells hit the church Sunday.

The Red Cross meanwhile evacuated 350 orphans to Zaire after 21 children aged from three to 12 were butchered Sunday.



Seoul warns Pyongyang against nuclear development

SEOUL (R) — President Kim Young-Sam warned North Korea Wednesday it would face "self-destruction" if the Communist state continued to resist calls for an end to its suspected development of nuclear arms.

In one of the strongest statements he has ever directed at the North, Mr. Kim said Seoul's patience was running out.

"I send a clear warning to North Korea. If it continues nuclear development and tries to test the patience of the West, it will inevitably walk the path of self-destruction," Mr. Kim told members of a state advisory group on reunification.

"Now our government's patience has reached a limit... The North's nuclear development should under all circumstances be blocked," Mr. Kim added.

The northern authorities should realise the only way for them to survive is to accept nuclear inspections and then engage in serious dialogue on establishing peace," he said.

Mr. Kim said the North had launched a campaign of "psychological warfare" with the South by trying to annul the armistice pact which halted the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North last week told United Nations forces stationed in South Korea it would unilaterally pull out of the Military Armistice Commis-

sion (MAC), which works to maintain peace along the tense 250-kilometres border between the two Koreas.

The North has boycotted MAC meetings since a South Korean general was appointed head of the five-person UNC delegation in March 1991, placing an American.

North Korea, which has defied the United Nations by refusing to allow full inspection of its nuclear facilities by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials, last week proposed negotiations with the United States to replace the armistice with peace agreements.

Meanwhile, hundreds of South Korean students clashed violently with riot police Wednesday when they attempted to storm an American centre in the southwestern city of Kwangju in an anti-U.S. protest, police said.

Policemen fired tear gas at 300 student activists to block them from approaching the building, a Kwangju police officer said.

Several riot police were injured during the clash with the students, who accuse the United States of creating a wartime atmosphere with its security strategy on the Korean peninsula.

Yonhap News Agency said the students later protested outside the regional police headquarters in the city centre, throwing paint at the building.

DHAKA (AP) — Rescue workers found 44 more bodies under collapsed houses overnight, raising the death toll from Bangladesh's cyclone to 150, officials said Wednesday.

The bodies were found in the hard-hit areas of Teknaf, Ramna, Ukhia and Cox's Bazar, according to the government disaster control room, which also said 10,000 people were injured.

The cyclone struck southern Bangladesh Monday for about five hours with winds up to 210 kilometres (130 miles) per hour.

Officials said the death toll is likely to rise when relief workers reach remote villages where many homes were destroyed.

But far fewer people died

Monday than during a 1991 cyclone that killed 130,000 in the same area, the officials said.

Since then the government has built 900 concrete storm shelters, and people in coastal areas are more receptive to cyclone warnings.

Monday's fatalities included 85 of the 200,000 refugees who left Burma three years ago and moved into camps along the

Bangladesh border to escape military persecution at home.

The storm washed away bridges, flattened tens of thousands of mud-and-thatch houses, and damaged highways. The government has estimated the damage at \$125 million.

"Though the casualties were less this time, the destruction to property is massive," said Livestock Minister Abdallah Al Noman, who is supervising relief work in the port of Cox's Bazar.

Some of the 800,000 people who escaped the storm in shelters have begun leaving them, and relief workers are struggling to get them food, medicine and drinking water.

"The biggest challenge now

is to rebuild the houses and rehabilitate the homeless people," said Dan Prewitt, head of the Red Cross in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who toured the area Tuesday, promised to protect the homeless people from hunger and diseases and to rebuild their houses. "My government will stand by you in your bad times," she told the survivors.

Rolling Stones to tour the world

NEW YORK (R) — Thirty years after their first American tour, the Rolling Stones said Tuesday they are ready to take on the United States again — and later the world. The four remaining members of the Stones — Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ron Wood and Charlie Watts, arrived in a yacht once used by the Kennedy family to tell reporters waiting on a lower Manhattan pier of their plans. They said their latest album, *Voodoo Lounge*, will be released on July 12 under a new label, Virgin Records, and their U.S. tour will kick off Aug. 1 at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington, D.C. Then they will take their show to 23 other cities in the United States and Canada this year and to Latin America, Asia and Europe in 1995. Jagger said tickets will be "pretty reasonable" ranging in price from \$25 to \$50. The band's last tour in 1989 grossed an estimated \$30 million. Jagger, 50, was asked if he was getting too old for touring and replied "no, it just takes a little more preparation."

Hungary expels 56 camels

BUDAPEST (AFP) — A herd of 56 homeless white camels has received orders to leave Hungary after their owners were unable to produce the required veterinary documents, the Nepszava Daily newspaper said Tuesday. Hungary's Agriculture Ministry decided to expel the camels after Germany denied the animals entry because they lacked sufficient veterinary papers.

The camels were bought by a German circus in the Russian city, Astrahan. But German officials refused to accept the veterinary documentation provided in Russia for the caravan, which had been quarantined in a rural Hungarian stable for a month. Germany asked Hungary for a properly documented veterinary examination, but the Agriculture Ministry decided to expel the animals instead, the newspaper said.

GARTH BROOKS named entertainer of year

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Garth Brooks witnessed the birth of his second child, then moments later won his fourth consecutive Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award. Comedian Jay Leno, decked out in a blue rhinestone-encrusted suit and a five-gallon hat, presented the award at Tuesday's 29th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. Brooks was in Nashville with his wife, Sandy, for the birth of their daughter, August Anna. "If Garth Brooks thinks being with his wife when she's having a baby is more important than a piece of plastic and metal, I don't know where his values are," Leno joked as he held the trophy. Moments earlier, Dick Clark had announced that Brooks and his wife were parents of a girl, August Anna, their second child. Earlier in the evening, Alan Jackson got to do double duty as one of the awards show's hosts and as a winner of two trophies, for best single and best album.

"Well, it sure takes the edge off that hosting job, I'll tell you that," a seemingly flustered Jackson told a cheering audience at the Universal Amphitheatre after collecting the Best Single Award for his foot-stomping, summer-fun tune *Chattahoochee*.

S. African park has too many elephants

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's Kruger National Park said Tuesday it would kill or transfer more than 500 elephants this year to maintain the ecological balance in the huge game reserve. The park's Executive Director Salomon Joubert said the aim was to keep the elephant population at a steady level and to address problems with other nations instead of being a "swaggering bully."

Sports

Bulls sweep 1st round

RICHFIELD, Ohio (R) — The Bulls completed the first step in their quest to prove they can win an NBA championship without Michael Jordan with a 95-92 overtime victory over Cleveland Tuesday that gave Chicago a 3-0 sweep of the best-of-five first round playoff series.

Scottie Pippen scored 23 points, including a driving layup with 1:25 left in overtime to lead the Bulls to victory.

Toni Kukoc added 18 points off the bench for the three-time defending champions, who have eliminated the Cavaliers five times in the last seven years.

Chicago will play the winner of the New York-New Jersey series in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Rookie Chris Mills scored a career-high 25 points and Mark Price had 22 for Cleveland, which again played without injured starters Brad Daugherty, Larry Nance and John Williams.

Mills, who sent the game into overtime by making a pair of free throws with 1:43 left in regulation, tied the game at 90-90 a driving layup with 2:36 left in overtime.

Pippen broke a 92-92 tie with his clutch layup.

In Miami, Steve Smith scored 25 points, including three free throws in the final 18 seconds, as the Heat held off the Atlanta Hawks 90-86.

The surprising Heat took a two games to one lead over the best team in the east and can wrap their first-ever playoff series victory at home Thursday.

In the 10 seasons since the NBA went to a best-of-five

first round, there has never been a number one seed upset by a number eight seed.

Glen Rice added 19 points and Ronny Seikaly, starting in place of suspended forward Grant Long, contributed 12 points and 20 rebounds for Miami. Long was suspended for his part in Saturday's bench-clearing brawl in Atlanta.

In Portland, Rod Strickland scored 25 points and handed out a franchise playoff record 15 assists as the Trail Blazers beat the Houston Rockets 118-115 to stay alive in their first round Western Conference series.

Houston, which won the first two games at home, leads 3-1 in the best-of-five series. Game four is Friday at Portland.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 36 points for the Rockets and has 108 points in the first three games of the series.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Jazz coasted to a 105-72 rout of the San Antonio Spurs and a two games to one lead in their opening-round playoff series.

Jeff Hornacek added 15 points and John Stockton contributed 13 points and 12 assists for Utah, which also will host game four Thursday night.

San Antonio's David Robinson, who led the league in scoring during the regular season, was held to 16 points on 8-for-21 shooting.

The Spurs played without Dennis Rodman, who was suspended one game and fined \$10,000 for incidents that led to his ejection from Saturday's 96-84 Jazz victory.



Sulayem targets Jordan title

MOHAMMAD Bin Sulayem has set himself the daunting target of claiming two victories thousands of miles apart on the World Championship and Middle East Championship circuits in less than a week.

While his first aim is to clinch a Group N production car win in the Corsica Rally, the UAE star is also hoping to follow up with another victory in the Jordan International Rally starting May 12. If this double victory bid is successful, Sulayem will reach the milestone of 30 international rally triumphs in Jordan where he scored the first major success of his career in 1984. The six-time former Middle East champion spent a week practising for the Jordan Rally before flying to Corsica, and he will be on a flight back to Amman within hours of the World Championship event finishing May 14. Chasing the fifth Jordan Rally win of his career in a UAE Armed Forces Ford Escort RS Cosworth, he will be partnered by Hassan Ali Bin Shahoor, deputising for Irishman Ronan Morgan.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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RENDER UNTO CAESAR

Neither vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♦ K 6
♦ Q 9 5 4
♦ K 9 5 3
♦ Q 6 2

WEST EAST
♦ Q 9 2 ♠ 10 8 7 4 3
♦ K 6 ♡ 2
♦ Q 8 7 6 4 ♠ J 10
♦ K 10 7 5 ♠ A 9 8

SOUTH
♦ A 5 ♦ K 3
♦ Q A Q J 10 7 8
♦ A 2 ♦ J 4 3

The bidding:

North East South West
Pass 4 4 4 4 Pass

Pass Pass

Open lead: Nine of ♠

"Now but the brave deserve the fair," wrote the bard. Unfortunately, South gave away in the play the South's chance to hold the club losing to the ace, and a club back yielded two more tricks to the defense—down one.

It was one of those peculiar hands: If the trump finesse was going to win, declarer did not need to take it as long as the trumps were 2-1. Why? Because the defenders cannot broach clubs without giving declarer a trick or two.

Declarer would win the opening lead in hand, cash the set of hearts and ace-king of diamonds, then ruff a diamond in hand. Declarer then crosses to the king of spades to ruff the last diamond, not minding whether a defender overruff.

When no one does, declarer simply exits with a trump. Whichever defender wins the trick has a choice of losing options. Any return other than clubs allows declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding a club from the other, while a club switch limits the defenders to two tricks in that suit. Making four-odd.

FIFA to mediate World Cup battle

HONG KONG (AFP) —

FIFA President Joao Havelange will attempt to make peace between World Cup rivals Japan and South Korea at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) congress next week.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of the AFC, said Wednesday that ending acrimony between the two over hosting Asia's first World Cup finals in 2002 was one of the main reasons for Havelange's trip to the congress in Kuala Lumpur.

A new plan for South Korea and Japan to jointly stage the finals will be pushed by Velappan and Havelange. "I am sure that Havelange will play a big role in resolving this issue," said the AFC leader.

Even if the peace bid succeeds, the World Cup rivalry will dominate the five-day meeting.

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Only 15 athletes to represent Jordan in the Hiroshima games

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) has announced that 15 athletes will represent the Kingdom in the 12th Asian Games which will be held in Hiroshima, Japan Oct. 2-16.

In its latest meeting chaired by Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat, the Olympic committee decided that Jordan's participation would be limited to Athletics, Equestrian, Shooting, Taekwondo, and Karate competitions since athletes of the five sports had met the requirements and criteria for participation in such an international competition.

The decision excluded tennis, boxing and basketball, whose respective federations had asked for a trial run before declaring their preparedness prior to the games.

The exclusion of basketball came as a surprise to most observers as the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) had declared that it would exert all efforts to prepare the national team in time for the competition.

The exclusion of basketball was due to the fact that the JBF's schedule could not conform to the JOC's timetable and the board voted to exclude basketball.

JOC Chairman Moufaaq Al Fawaz Wednesday told the Jordan times that the JOC's technical committee had implemented strict criteria and regulations in approving participation.

The JOC's last participation in the Asian games was back in 1986 in Seoul. Preparations for the competition as well as travel costs are expected to exceed JD 70,000.

The Hiroshima Games where the official slogan has been declared "Asian Harmony," will host around 7,300 athletes representing 42 nations in 337 events of 34 different sports.

Jordan will be represented by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein in Equestrian, Radu Abdul Rabeb in shooting, Basam Abu Nijim, Muhammad Shamat, Amal Mutairi, Suad Haddad and Awwad Sreys in athletics.

Thus handball, weightlifting,

gymnastics, tabletennis, swimming, cycling and wrestling federations declined to participate, while tennis, fencing, soccer, judo and volleyball federations did not meet eligibility requirements. Boxing and basketball were given a trial run.

Boxing was later excluded when the national team score dissapointing results in a recent tournament in Iraq.

"Respective federations were carefully screened, and it was finally decided that only 15 athletes would participate," said Dr. Fawaz in a telephone interview.

"We had given basketball a chance, but they honestly admitted that the team would not be ready by early August," he said, explaining that the national basketball team would start preparations as of June 1, and have friendly matches in July and August after which the federation would evaluate the team's preparedness and address any shortcomings.

However, in its latest meeting, the JOC had asked the JBF to prepare the team by early August by playing against neighbouring national teams to evaluate the team and confirm participation earlier. Thus the JBF's schedule could not conform to the JOC's timetable and the board voted to exclude basketball.

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The exclusion of basketball came as a surprise to most observers as the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) had declared that it would exert all efforts to prepare the national team in time for the competition.

The exclusion of basketball was due to the fact that the JBF's schedule could not conform to the JOC's timetable and the board voted to exclude basketball.

Jordan will be represented by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein in Equestrian, Radu Abdul Rabeb in shooting, Basam Abu Nijim, Muhammad Shamat, Amal Mutairi, Suad Haddad and Awwad Sreys in athletics.

Thus handball, weightlifting,

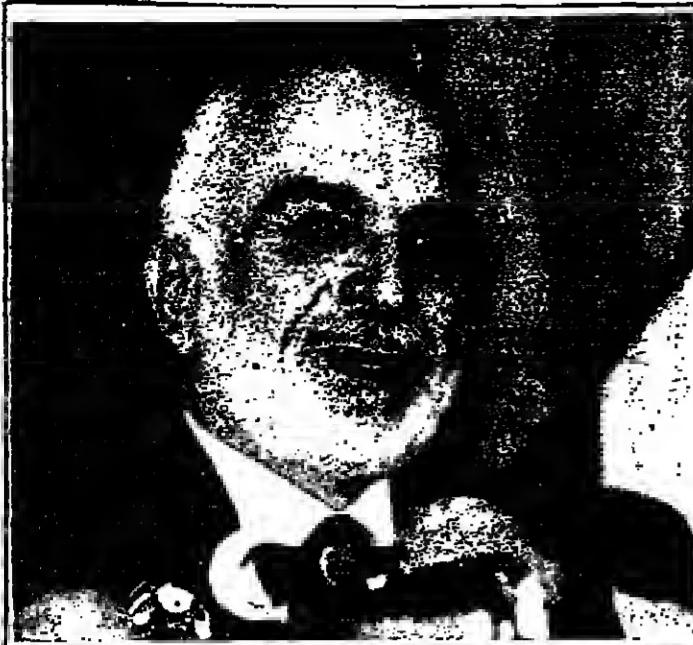
gymnastics, tabletennis, swimming, cycling and wrestling federations declined to participate, while tennis, fencing, soccer, judo and volleyball federations did not meet eligibility requirements. Boxing and basketball were given a trial run.

Boxing was later excluded when the national team score dissapointing results in a recent tournament in Iraq.

"Respective federations were carefully screened, and it was finally decided that only 15 athletes would participate," said Dr. Fawaz in a telephone interview.

"We had given basketball a chance, but they honestly admitted that the team would not be ready by early August," he said, explaining that the national basketball team would start preparations as of June 1, and have friendly matches in July and August after which the federation would evaluate the team's preparedness and address any shortcomings.

However, in its latest meeting, the JOC had asked the JBF to



King thanks Jordanians and others for sharing grief over Queen Mother

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein appeared on national television Wednesday evening to express his deep gratitude to the Jordanian people for their expression of sympathy over the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

"Your noble and loyal stand and support and your demonstration of the noblest feelings of sympathy over the great loss have left a deep

and gratifying effect in the hearts of the Hashemite family members," King Hussein said in his address.

The late Queen Mother, "who has accomplished her noble mission towards the Jordanian family while they pursued building of the nation, will be remembered by all of us as an example and a model of doing good and of altruism and extending a helping hand to the poor, the orphaned and the needy."

the King said. "It was indeed hard for me to break to you the news about the passing of the dear mother who had served as a mother for all Jordanians. But I was overwhelmed by your sympathy and the expression of grief over the Queen's death which enabled me and my family to endure the impact of her departure," King Hussein added.

The King voiced deep gratitude to all those in Jordan

and abroad who had offered their condolences to the Royal Family.

On Wednesday, King Hussein received at the Royal Court Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohammad Salem Ould Akhal, who conveyed to the King the condolences of Mauritanian President Mouawiyah Ould Taya over the death of the Queen Mother. Mr. Akhal arrived in Amman Tuesday.

14 expellees and families return home

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fourteen Palestinians crossed the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank on Wednesday, returning home on the day Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an accord setting out the modalities of autonomy.

The 14, who were accompanied by 35 family members, became the latest batch of expelled Palestinians to be allowed to return home by the Israeli occupation since the beginning of the Middle East peace process in Spain in October 1991.

The 14 were from a list of 15 released by the Palestinian mission here. The 15th man, identified as Najib Ahmad, a member of the Palestine National Council and former head of the PLO office in Amman, will be travelling at a later date, PLO officials said.

The Associated Press identified those returning home on Wednesday as: Abdul Hamid

Al Baba, Mohammad Al Lahadi, Musleh Hanoun, Jawad Younes, Majid Al Labadi, Mohammad Amin Al Jaabari, Mahmoud Al Laham, Mahmoud Alawi, Saber Taqatqa, Abdul Salam Al Tamimi, Ali Mahmud Al Khatib, Ahd Radad, Jumma Abu Hamed and Yasser Al Awadhi.

Mr. Zaki said the Palestinians were ready to make peace if the Israelis were "serious."

But if "they (Israelis) continue to massacre and oppress our people, we will escalate our struggle to liberate our land."

Asked if the intifada would continue, Mr. Zaki said, the revolt was "the choice of the people, not of the leadership."

Israel has expelled more than 2,000 Palestinians after occupying the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 war. It has agreed to allow most of them back in stages.

Another 50 Palestinian expellees whose bid to return home has also been approved by the occupation authorities are expected to travel next week, PLO officials said. Their names were not immediately available, but are expected to include several expellees who served as advisors to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis. It was not immediately clear why their return was de-

layed. The returning expellees and their families were seen off from the PLO mission here.

Abbas Zaki, a prominent member of the Fatah Central Committee, who was present at the event, noted that the return came on the day Israel and the PLO had signed the accord on implementing autonomy.

Mr. Zaki said the Palestinians were ready to make peace if the Israelis were "serious."

But if "they (Israelis) continue to massacre and oppress our people, we will escalate our struggle to liberate our land."

In addition, around 30 other Palestinians who fled the occupied territories to evade Israeli capture after the intifada began in December 1987 have also been allowed to return.

More than two-thirds of all the expellees allowed to return are staunch activists of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction founded by Mr. Arafat. They are expected to assume key roles in the administration of Palestinian self-rule envisaged in the Sept. 13 accord.

Others were either pro-PLO independents or members of PLO factions which support the peace process. These include the Palestine People's Party (PPP) and FIDA, a faction led by Arafat confidant and PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

S. Africa to help ferry Palestinian police force

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Saudi Arabia has agreed to ferry several thousand Palestinians trained as policemen from Arab countries to Egypt and Jordan from where they will proceed overland to autonomous territories of Gaza Strip and Jericho, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said the Saudi gesture came after approaches from several Arab countries, prominent among them Egypt, as well as the United States, which has thrown its weight behind the autonomy agreement reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in a speech after signing an accord in Cairo on Wednesday setting out the modalities of autonomy, referred to the Saudi move.

"Saudi planes are right now transporting the Palestinian force," he said, thanking King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for the gesture as well as his country's overall support for the autonomy accord.

At a donors conference held in Washington on Oct. 1, Saudi Arabia has pledged \$100 million to help support Palestinian autonomy. On Tuesday, the Saudi government signed an agreement allocating \$20 million from the pledge to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which offers services to Palestinian refugees.

The money will be used by UNRWA to finance its projects in the occupied territories.

King Fahd in January after a strain of more than three years caused by the PLO's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But the meeting, PLO sources said,

did not signal a total end to the entanglement.

The Saudi allocation to UNRWA reflected Riyadh's approach that the \$100 million aid would not go direct to the PLO but will be channelled through U.N. and other international agencies working with the World Bank, which is coordinating international aid to support Palestinian autonomy.

PLO spokesman in Amman said they did not have details of the Sandi arrangement to transport Palestinian policemen and did not know whether ferrying had already started.

Units of the police force are stationed in Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan as well as Libya. Those in Libya are expected to travel overland to Egypt since international flights to Libya are banned under U.N. sanctions imposed against that country.

"We understand the transportation process will begin in the next two or three days," said Khalid Mismar, a spokesman for the Palestinian embassy in Amman. But he said he did not have further information.

Israel has agreed to allow the deployment of a 9,000-strong police force in Gaza and Jericho to take over internal security as part of the autonomy arrangements.

Seven thousand of the police force will come from Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) units in various countries and 2,000 will be from within the occupied territories.

According to Mr. Mismar and other sources, Saudi planes will fly in units from the host countries to El Arish in Egypt and Amman from where they will proceed overland to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian-Israeli border and the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan.

The deployment of the entire force is expected to be completed in three weeks.

S. African vote count delayed

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)

— The country's election commission said Wednesday that computer sabotage has further delayed the counting of votes, forcing back the date for Nelson Mandela's ascension to power.

However, the head of the Independent Election Commission, Johann Krieger, said the fraud involved tens of thousands of votes out of 12 million counted and had no impact on the outcome of the poll, which Mr. Mandela's African National Council (ANC) is winning in a landslide.

The main effect has been to delay the first sitting of the new, multiracial national assembly, which was set for Friday but has been moved back to Monday. Mr. Mandela is certain to be chosen president at the session and will be inaugurated as the country's first president on Tuesday.

The computer sabotage was the latest in a series of embarrassing problems and delays that have plagued South Africa's first democratic election.

However, most observers maintain the election was substantially free and fair.

Mr. Krieger said the computer fraud was discovered Tuesday morning, and the commission still does not know who was responsible.

"Anyone who had access to our computer system could have done it," said Ben van der Ross, a member of the election commission.

Several parties were given additional votes in a pattern, said Mr. Van der Ross, but officials refused to name the parties.

The fraud was discovered because the votes were being counted twice — once by hand and once by computer. The totals did not match, and officials then found the problem with the computer.

The commission has tabulated just over half of the estimated 23 million votes cast in five days. Asked when the figures would be complete, Mr. Krieger said only that it would be finished before the inauguration Tuesday.

In a separate dispute over alleged vote fraud, the ANC is questioning the validity of about 170 voting boxes in the eastern province of Natal, where the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) is winning the regional election.

IFP leader Zulu nationalist Mangosuthu Buthelezi indicated he would accept the results of the poll.

Mr. Buthelezi spoke to journalists in Ulundi, capital of his soon-to-be-defunct Kwazulu black homeland, after Charles Nupen, an official of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), held talks with Mr. Buthelezi's IFP and the ANC in Durban.

"When we went into the election there was this understanding that we would accept the results," Mr. Buthelezi said.

"My only reservation was that because of the irregularities, I reserved my position.

"But I don't think there is a possibility that I can turn around now and say that I don't accept the results of the election if everyone else accepts them."

He refused to comment on the likelihood that the ANC would make gains as votes from black townships around the cities of Durban and the provincial capital Pietermaritzburg began weighing into the vote count for the new provincial assembly in Kwazulu-Natal.

The ANC denied reports that it had withdrawn its objections. Mr. Krieger said that the counting could be speeded if the parties reach agreement among themselves on disputed ballots in Natal and elsewhere.

The ANC has won 62.5 per cent of the votes counted so far, and outgoing president F.W. de Klerk, leader of the National Party, has conceded defeat.

Mr. Mandala's inauguration — a gala event to be attended by world leaders — cannot be postponed because of the tight schedules of guests that could include the president of China, Yasser Arafat, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Britain's Prince Philip.

Mr. Buthelezi also announced that the members of the 141-seat Kwazulu Legislative Assembly (KLA), which held its last caucus meeting Wednesday, would form an association to be the "eyes of the Zulu people."

Plaudits continued to pour in from across the world to Mr. Mandala and Mr. De Klerk.

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Topless photos of Diana on sale

LONDON (R) — Photographs purportedly showing Princess Diana sunbathing topless are being offered for sale by a Spanish press agency, British newspapers reported Wednesday. The newspapers said the Europa Press Agency was asking £1 million (\$1.51 million) for world rights and £500,000 (\$754,700) for British rights to publish the photographs. Princess Diana was reported to be furious about the photographs, said the top-selling Sun tabloid. The photographs were taken last weekend while the estranged wife of the heir to Britain's throne was sunbathing at a hotel in Malaga in southern Spain during a short holiday.

Two Spanish photographers checked into the same hotel and managed to snatch around 30 shots. The Europa Press Agency told British newspapers five of the photographs showed the princess topless while she sunbathed with two women friends. The story is another blow to Princess Diana's attempts to avoid the media spotlight. She was incensed when two British papers published "sneak" pictures of her working out in a London gym last year. In December 1993, a year after her separation from Prince Charles and after unrelenting press attention, Princess Diana announced she was withdrawing from public life. Earlier this year, she even dismissed her official bodyguard. British police say undercover officers keep the princess under surveillance. A Buckingham Palace spokesman was quoted by newspapers as saying: "We are not prepared to discuss photographs that we have not seen. But nobody likes having photographs taken of them which intrude on their privacy, and that includes the Princess of Wales."

Gene Kelly diagnosed with cellulitis

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Hollywood legend Gene Kelly, admitted to a San Francisco hospital over the weekend suffering from flu-like symptoms, has been diagnosed as having a skin infection, the hospital said. The 81-year-old dancer and movie star is suffering from cellulitis, a bacterial infection of the skin which can cause headaches and muscle pain. St. Mary's Medical Centre said Kelly was described as comfortable and in stable condition Tuesday. He is expected to remain in the hospital for at least one week, while he undergoes treatment for the cellulitis in his right leg, the medical centre said.

Kelly was diagnosed as having cellulitis in his right leg, the medical centre said. Kelly, who lives in Beverly Hills, was in San Francisco to attend a performance of Romeo and Juliet by the San Francisco Ballet, when he was taken ill in his hotel room Sunday and taken to the hospital. Kelly complained of headaches and body pains and it was initially thought he was suffering from the flu before he was diagnosed as having cellulitis.

"Cellulitis is treatable with trivalent antibiotics and can have many causes, including something as simple as a scratch," said Remo Morelli, the doctor treating Kelly. "Over the next few days we will watch Mr. Kelly's condition closely. With patients his age... even simple infections can turn out to be quite serious," he said. Hospital spokeswoman Lynne Tan said the medical centre had received cards, letters and flower arrangements as well as many telephone calls from fans wishing Kelly a speedy recovery. The medical centre has set up a special fax number (415 750-4855) for Kelly's fans to send good wishes.

Charlton Heston defends semi-automatic weapons sales

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Hollywood star Charlton Heston came out against restricting sales of semi-automatic weapons as Congress debated banning 19 types of the weapons. Neither President Bill Clinton nor any supporters of the weapons ban are telling the truth, he said in a press conference organised by the pro-gun National Rifle Association. "I think the degree of misinformation is more than simple ignorance," said Heston, a long-time supporter of the opposition Republican Party. "It has to be deliberate obscurism."

More mediators try to end Yemeni tensions

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi-based Al Aqsa Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) will enter Jordan within the next 48 hours in preparation for its move to Jericho as part of the Palestinian police force, a senior official at the Palestine embassy said Wednesday.

"The Al Aqsa Brigades will enter Jordan at the Karamet crossing and head for the Jordan Valley in preparation for their entry into Jericho," Omar Khatri, deputy ambassador to Jordan, told the Jordan Times.

The announcement was made as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was signing the final draft of the first phase of the implementation of self-rule in the occupied territories in Cairo.

The units comprising the Al Aqsa Brigades were given police training at the Jordan Police Academy and at the PLA headquarters in Jordan at Khawar. They are now regrouping in Iraq and most if not the entire brigade will head for Jordan imminently.

Over 3,000 members of the PLA's Bader Brigades based in Jordan are awaiting word from the PLO headquarters in Tunis to move to Jericho.

According to information obtained from the PLA headquarters in Amman the Al Aqsa Brigades is composed of 850 men. There was no explanation why the Iraq-based Al Aqsa Brigades would move to Jericho before the Bader Brigades.

PLO officials said Wednesday that the members of the Al Aqsa Brigade will camp in the Jordan Valley at the Madinat Al Hajaj for 36 to 72 hours before entering

Jericho. PLO officials said that the first group to enter would be composed of 500 men.

It is not yet clear whether the policemen will enter Jericho in their khaki PLA uniforms or in dark blue police uniforms. Also uncertain was whether the PLA policemen will be carrying light weapons.

"We know that they will be based in Jericho and that's about all. We are still awaiting orders," said a colonel at the PLA headquarters in Jabel Hussein.

The Al Aqsa Brigades have been stationed in Iraq since the PLO fighters were evacuated from Lebanon in 1982. None of the policemen's families would be accompanying their men into Jericho in this first phase of implementation of Palestinian self-rule, PLA officials said.

Aden on Tuesday denied foreign reports that the north-

erners downed a southern MiG-21 jet fighter in Lajhi province, which is 100 kilometres north of the southern capital.

But the statement from the southern military command warned that Aden would "use its warplanes if necessary to end the northern siege."

The main flashpoints are in a string of positions from south of Sanaa through the provinces of Damar, Ah, Abyan and Lajhi that lead to the province of Aden.

"Yemen is living the atmosphere of a civil war because of the attempt of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his northern military command to pounce on the south and gobble up its leadership," said the statement.

With the absence of five Middle East powers from the Arab-Israeli peace process would impede accord on arms control in the region. But the head of the Israeli delegation, defence ministry director-general David Ivri, told the Associated Press his country wanted to start on limitation of conventional arms without delay.

"Arms control is not possible with Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran and Iraq not participating," he said.

"If we lay down a solid basis then we can start the process and take risks."

With a 19-man delegation, the Israelis were by far the largest team at the conference in the heavily guarded, pyramid-shaped Majlis Centre of the Doha Sheraton Hotel.

Mr. Ivri insisted that all Middle East countries take part in the drive for arms control, asserting that "when time and thinking mature, then inspections of all kinds of weapons, including chemical weapons, nuclear weapons and all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, would be possible."

Dr. Majali said that despite the acceptance announced by Mr. Christopher no further steps had been taken to place the sanctions-verifications regime at Aqaba.

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